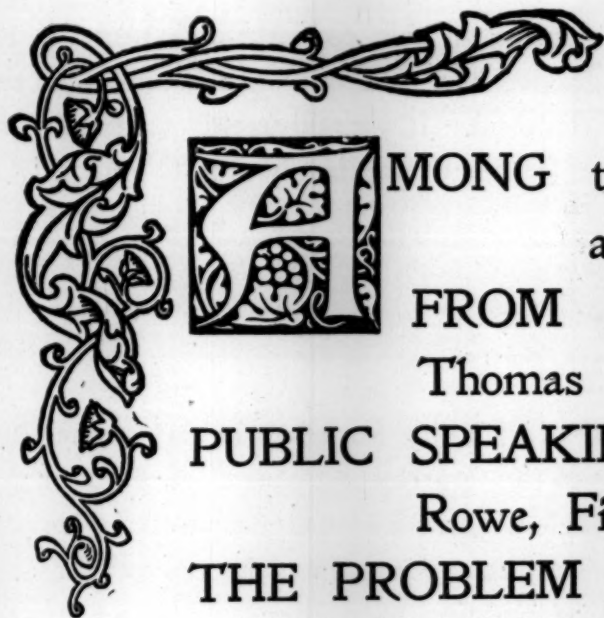


# THE CLUB WOMAN

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MASS., NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 2.



AMONG the prominent features of this number are: ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

FROM MAN'S POINT OF VIEW, Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR WOMEN, Miss O. M. E. Rowe, First Vice-president, Mass. Federation.

THE PROBLEM OF THE GREAT DEPARTMENT CLUB, Miss Helen A. Whittier.

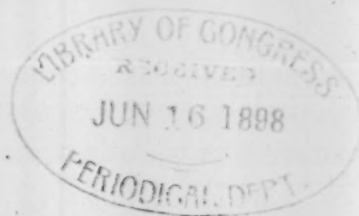
WHY I DIDN'T READ A PAPER, Elisabeth Merritt Gosse.  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AMONG THE WOMEN'S CLUBS, Mrs. P. F. Ottley.

POEMS, Mrs. Wm. P. Frye, Helen M. Winslow and Julia Harris May.  
THE BIRD QUESTION, Orinda Dudley Hornbrooke.

THE STUDY OF FICTION, May Alden Ward.

AN OPEN PARLIAMENT, Etta H. Osgood.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUB PROGRAMS, Elizabeth T. King.





# THE CLUB WOMAN



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## ADVERTISING FOR WOMEN.

\*\*\*\*\*

IT is admitted by everyone that most of the buying at retail in this country, and probably in most other countries, is done by women. Of the goods thus sold over the counters of the store it is estimated that women buy 75 to 90 per cent. of the total. If we add to this what is known as mail order trade, the proportion will be still larger. The women of the family are diligent advertisement readers.—*F. James Gibson in Printer's Ink.*

\*\*\*\*\*

The CLUB WOMAN offers an exceptional opportunity for advertisers to reach the women who buy. The members of women's clubs belong to the "purchasing class;" all of them are comfortably circumstanced and many of them are women of means. They are large and generous purchasers in all markets, and their approval often determines the success of articles offered for sale.

There is an intense spirit of loyalty to all that pertains to women's clubs among the members. Women read closely all club news and are favorably disposed towards advertisers who will make their club "organ" the medium of communication with them. Happy is the man with something to sell and who advertises it among women's clubs, for he knows where his business interests lie.

The CLUB WOMAN will go to every club in New England, and to many members of every club. It will go also to a large number of clubs throughout the United States. There is no other distinctive club periodical published and The Club Woman has a field peculiarly its own. We are confident that advertisers will here make their wares known to a class that not only read advertisements faithfully, but have the ready money with which to buy and only need to have their attention called to what they need.

There are several thousand women's clubs in New England, with a membership of fully fifty thousand women; while in the United States the number reaches nearly to a million. We propose to be read in all these clubs.

Do you want your goods known to the club women of this country?



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NUMBER 2.

## The Club Woman,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Women's Clubs.

### CONTENTS.

NOTES	35
"THE MELLOWING OF OCCASION"	36
FROM MAN'S POINT OF VIEW THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON	37
POEM MRS. WILLIAM P. FRYE	37
WOMEN AS PUBLIC SPEAKERS O. M. E. ROWE	38
WHY I DIDN'T READ A PAPER ELISABETH MERRITT GOSSE	39
"HE KIND O' RECKONS SO" HELEN M. WINSLOW	41
PROBLEM OF THE LARGE DEPARTMENT CLUB HELEN A. WHITTIER	42
THE PRESENT BIRD LITERATURE ORINDA DUDLEY HORN BROOKE	44
CORRESPONDENCE	45
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION MRS. JOHN OTTLEY	46
GENERAL FEDERATION NOTES	48
STATE FEDERATION NEWS	48-52
THE STUDY OF FICTION MAY ALDEN WARD	53
OPEN PARLIAMENT ETTA H. OSGOOD	54
WHAT SOME CLUBS ARE DOING	54-57
HOW TO FORM A CLUB	57
THE OUTER GARB	58
SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUB PROGRAMS	59

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HELEN M. WINSLOW

Editor.

### NOTES.

"THE first woman's club" keeps on appearing in different parts of the country, and one is almost tempted to say it is a pretty poor state, nowadays, that cannot produce one on its records. Hannah Adams, Mercy Warren and even Anne Bradstreet, away back in the earliest Puritan days, had their reading societies, with meetings for discussion—although they would no sooner have called them "clubs" than they would have been seen on bicycles. About the middle of this fast waning century there were a number of library associations, physiological societies, moral education associations and the like, several of which are in existence to-day. But in the modern sense they were not women's clubs. The club idea started to grow in the latter part of the sixties, and Mrs. Croly, "Jennie June," was its first apostle. Why not be content to give her the credit for it, and let the matter rest there?

NOT the least important work that is being done by women's clubs to-day is that in behalf of the birds. Mrs. Hornbrooke's article in the following pages, is worth the close attention of every woman in the land. The time has already come when to a thoughtful woman the sight of a dead bird's body, perched on a fashionable hat, no matter how skilfully it has been stuffed, is positively repulsive. Only a few days ago we saw a "tailor-made woman" crossing the street. She was beautifully dressed, every detail showing the lady of refinement and elegant taste, except for one thing, alas! On her head was a small, costly, neatly fitting hat, around the side of which was curved the entire body and head of a large golden brown pheasant, with its glass eyes staring down into the woman's face. It was a disgusting sight. The place for dead birds is not above a pretty woman's face. If it were not for fashion's sake we should say it was a trick only fit for barbarians and cannibals.

What women need most in this direction is to be educated up to a point where they can see no beauty in such vagaries of fashion. A well-known Chicago newspaper woman put it well, if somewhat strongly, when she said: "It will be no surprise to me to see life-sized turkeys, or even old farmyard hens, on fashionable bonnets before I die. They have already got as far as parrots and young owls; anything to be in the fashion, even if we have to wear our grandmother for a chatelaine ornament! I think I can bear the sight of a dead bird upon a woman's hat very well until I see it in church—then I want to get right up and preach! Go, listen to stories of the Merciful One with a poor little murdered songster on your hat brim? Sit in your pew and cry over a saintly prayer with a bluebird's wing or the breast of a golden oriole caught in the mesh of your bonnet lace? Ask the Lord to make you tender-hearted, kind and loving, and pay two dollars to a milliner for a tortured yellow bird, flayed alive that the color might be retained in its brilliant plumage to flaunt above your frizzes?"

### "THE MELLOWING OF OCCASION."

**I**F there is any one subject under the sun of which I know less than of any other, that subject is base ball. Other women attend match games and wax enthusiastic over their progress, joining vigorously in expressions of interest which vociferate from masculine throats, and wearing the colors of their favorite "sides." They tell me, these women who pretend to understand the game, that nothing in life is more simple and that I might easily solve its apparent mysteries and I would. Optimistic friends of both sexes have labored faithfully, though fitfully, to explain these things to my feeble understanding and have given it up a little later as a hopeless, thankless task, and all because I have never felt sufficient interest in base ball to remember the exact points of difference between an inning and an umpire, a bat and a home run.

Now, this reprehensible ignorance, I contend, is my privilege. If I find that there are so many other things in life that seem to me of such paramount importance that I have no time or strength left for the intricacies of base ball, that is my own affair. But I have no right to assume that I am capable of discussing it intelligently. More especially, I should not dream of writing a paper for one of the leading magazines on the subject, even if I prefaced the article with the apology that I know nothing whatever about the game except what my friend Ernesta has told me. Neither would any magazine in the country think for a moment of accepting, paying for and printing such an article.

And yet, that is exactly what Mrs. Moody has done in a widely advertised article in Scribner's Monthly. And apparently the publishers of that excellent periodical think they have shed a great deal of light upon an important question of the day—light that, to use an Hibernianism, is sure to extinguish the whole subject. Indeed, it would be pathetic were it not absolutely ridiculous, to see how willing some men are to publish diatribes against the so-called "woman movement." And as yet, none of them have succeeded in getting that kind of an article from a woman who is familiar with the field. What club-women wait for, and what we promise to receive in all humiliation and weigh carefully as the issues of life and death, is the article showing the mistakes of the club-movement, written by a woman who knows exactly what she is talking about.

This has not yet been done. Now and then some woman rises and remarks that she is not a club woman and would not be for the world, but she thinks so and so, etc. With serious minded people such talk ought to receive the same consideration that a woman would get who prefaced an essay on the higher education for women by saying that she knows nothing about the subject and would not know anything for worlds. To have the gift of a well cultivated power of observation is a good thing; but on no other subject than the club-movement, can a woman get a hearing who has only that to recommend her, and who proceeds to show that she has not even exercised it properly.

In short, ignorance of the actual facts of the case is the only excuse for Mrs. Moody's diatribe against women's clubs; and ignorance is no excuse at all. We recommend not to her alone but to all others who rush into print after the preface, "I belong to nothing," that they make a careful perusal of the work of the State Federations in this number. The article in

Scribner's represents the clubs as scrambling eagerly for something, they know not what, and rushing madly they know not where. An hour's intelligent study of the work of the Federations shows that careful systematization is being followed, leading up to a definite goal. The splendid work that is being done all through the West, especially, and the courage and magnificent energy of the western women, ought to make us women of "the effete East" pause and reflect several times before entering a protest; and if we pause long enough to really understand the power of organization, and reflect long enough to comprehend what is really being accomplished by the club-movement, we may possibly refrain from proving our individual right to the title of "The Unquiet Sex."

The Reverend Caroline Bartlett Crane came the nearest to doing the right thing in the right way when she read her admirable paper before the Louisville biennial. And she read it directly to the women themselves and in the place where it would do the most good, instead of publishing it in a setting to tickle man's vanity and where it would attract the attention of the outside world to the faults of the women's clubs. For we admit with sorrow that the club movement has not yet reached that point of perfection which the most critical could wish; although history inclines us to believe that when a nation or a movement reaches that point its usefulness begins to decline. No good club woman pretends for an instant that there is not vast room for improvement; and every good club woman is earnestly seeking how to attain the best, individually and collectively.

The inertia of motion is as much a law as the inertia of rest. "We know well the former isolation of women upon the intellectual and imaginative side," said Dr. Crane; "their unquiet yearning to help the human needs of others; the spasmodic sense of power which sank back into self-distrust because of the loneliness—the not knowing of hundreds of thousands of other hearts that burned with the same heaven-given fire. And then women found one another and so discovered each herself—and dared. And it was good—the best. We could say it was worth waiting for, did not there rise before us the ghosts of many starved lives that perished ere we reached the Promised Land."

"But do we not need to curb our superabounding inclination to put an active hand to whatsoever things are pure and lovely and of good report? We are bidden to 'think on these things,' but that does not necessarily involve the formation of a stock company in behalf of each and every one. There is peril of losing the charity that suffereth long and is kind, that vaunteth not itself and is not puffed up, in the new kind of charity that begins not at home but in the committee room and ends on the rostrum and in the newspapers."

"There are women who make their clubs a means to an end, and not the end itself. It is only needful that we all do this when the real beneficence of association will demonstrate itself anew. In union there is strength, but it is not the union of the bundle of dry sticks we want, but the union of the separate live twigs upon the common tree."

All of which is along the line of the Club Woman's remarks in the last number. "Your new beatitude, 'Blessed be the woman who belongs to one active club only: for to her accrue the benefits of association without a multitude of distractions,' is alone worth the price of subscription," writes Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr. "Keep hammering away at it."



## FROM MAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

In order that we club-women may not be too much absorbed with our own views of the value of club work, the CLUB WOMAN will from time to time give the opinions, freely expressed, of prominent men in such walks of life as afford a broad outlook. The following, in reply to the editor's request for a word on this subject, is sure to interest all club women as coming from one whose name is honored throughout the length and breadth of the country:

**F**RANKLY, I regard women's clubs not exactly as a necessary evil, but as an intermediate process. I dislike all separate clubs as I do all separate schools for the sexes. I am an honorary member of the New England Woman's Club and of the Cantabrigia, and I have heartily favored both, but only in this way. If the Colonial Club (of Cambridge), of which I was president when Cantabrigia was formed, would only have admitted women, I never should have favored the other club. As it was I did the best I could.

I have lectured a great deal before women's clubs, and shall again this winter if they wish for my new lecture, "Europe After Twenty Years." They give good intelligent audiences, but are less easy to reach in a satisfactory way (as men's audiences are), than are mixed assemblages. I am afraid I am hopelessly co-educational. I do not like even boy choirs in churches.

The clubs have done wonders, no doubt, in teaching women to speak to the question, to preside, to obey parliamentary rules, etc., also to open new departments of study. Nor do I believe they have separated families, but rather the contrary. You are quite right in urging them to go on; but after all it is not good for men nor women to be alone.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON.

Cambridge, Oct. 12, 1897.

## MRS. FRYE'S POEM.

Mrs. William P. Frye, wife of the famous senator from Maine and one of the notably bright women of the state, read the following poem before the Maine State Federation of Clubs at Bangor, Oct. 7, 1897:

[Dedicated to the Founder of Women's Clubs.]

**A** WOMAN took, with a kindly hand,  
A little seed, from a near-by stand,  
And buried it in the earth.  
Her heart went up in silent prayer  
That the seed might live, give birth  
To a tree, and all its branches bear

A golden fruitage, both rich and rare.  
The warm sun shone, and the soft rain fell;  
The quickened germ burst its prison cell,  
And a shoot appeared to view,  
All unnoticed by the heedless throng,  
But seen by the thoughtful few,  
Who watched its growth with hope and with fear,  
For woman's future was centered here.

It steadily grew with purposed will,  
Knowing its place in the world to fill;  
Each branch bore a message grand;  
Each unfolding leaf a truth revealed,  
That re-echoed through the land;  
And woman's heart that echo shall thrill,  
In the farm-house, shop and noisy mill.

It has now become a stately tree,  
Spreading its branches from sea to sea,  
And across the ocean wide.  
In distant lands woman eats the fruit.  
Our hearts are swelling with pride,  
That in our land, so bounteous, free,  
Was sown the seed of this wondrous tree.

We thank that woman whose kindly hand  
Took the small seed from the near-by stand,  
And planted it in the soil.  
She has had answer to her prayer;  
For woman, though she may toil,  
Has found a treasure, value untold,  
Choicer than jewels, or finest gold.

For to-day she proudly takes her part  
In the fields of science and of art,  
The acknowledged peer of man,  
Working out with him life's great problems.  
The world calls her "new woman,"  
She has broken down old bars, 'tis true,  
And walks in pathways, strange to her view.

To her unsealed mind knowledge has brought  
Longings, aspirations and new thought;  
Still she is the true woman,  
Forgetting not the sweet duties of home;  
Fulfilling the divine plan  
Of wife and mother, all that is best.  
The wiser she, more the children blest.

Have faith in that fruitage, rich and rare.  
On the broad fields of Palestine, where  
The dear Lord sends no rain,  
The blooming acacias lift their heads,  
Fed by springs below the plain.  
They cannot be seen, and yet we know,  
Save for their presence, no tree could grow.

So in palace grand or humble home,  
Wherever that golden fruit may come,  
New hope and joy 'twill bring.  
'Twill encourage, strengthen, womankind,  
And will prove the hidden spring  
Which claims from life their rightful dower,  
And freedom gives each latent power.

Then thrive, O tree, our hope and our pride;  
Still throw out thy branches far and wide,  
Thou tree of knowledge so great;  
Not the one from which our mother ate,  
And lost us our first estate,  
But a tree of light, beaming afar  
Guiding us onward, our morning-star.

One feature of first meetings should silence those carping critics who seem to think that women of diverse interests cannot work together without dissensions and jealousies. In point of fact, not only are the warmest friendships formed in clubs, but they are strongly cemented in them. Women who have worked side by side in the same club year after year become like a band of sisters, and the first autumn coming together is a reunion eagerly welcomed of "tried friends and true."—Margaret Hamilton Welch, in Harper's Bazar.

## WOMEN AS PUBLIC SPEAKERS.

By O. M. E. ROWE, Vice-President Mass. Federation.

IT is barely forty years since the first women speakers appeared on public platforms. The pioneers suffered much; the women auditors meting out scorn, and the men ridicule. The actuating motive was a longing to help a "cause." Only a deep, heroic love of the anti-slavery movement could have carried Angelina Grimke and Lucy Stone through the ordeal, when obloquy was the penalty for daring to lift up their voices. Suffrage for women was another cause on which the early speakers lavished their resources of heart and voice. It is the first step that costs. Down the pathway opened by bleeding feet Anna Dickinson, Julia Ward Howe, Mary A. Livermore, Frances Willard, Amelia Edwards and Mrs. Chant have successfully marched to the platform, followed by a long procession of women speaking on all sorts of topics.

The great organized movements now conducted by women have compelled them to preside at meetings and address large audiences. Many women of retiring dispositions, without the slightest ambition to shine as public speakers, have been brought gradually to the front by the demands of organizations whose helpful work is dear to their hearts. The phenomenal growth of women's clubs has increased the number of women who must appear before audiences. The early speakers were exceptional women. But the exigencies of club work have taught co-operation, and the average club woman has survived the shock of hearing her own voice, and dares to read a paper or take part in discussions. This has reacted upon her intellect, for nothing stimulates thought like the attempt at expression. Whether wisely or not, women have become public speakers and they should take pains to deliver their messages in the best possible way.

The voice is most important. No matter how eloquent or scholarly a woman may be, if she cannot be heard she is a miserable failure. Nothing irritates an audience like straining the ears to catch a speaker's words. It is a question whether a woman, who cannot make herself heard, has a moral right to afflict an assembly. A New England voice, while not sweet and musical in a drawing room, has carrying power, and if carefully modulated, is a boon in the auditorium. Distinctness of enunciation is another desideratum, and may be easily cultivated. A slovenly pronunciation, the vicious trick of constantly dropping the voice in the middle of sentences, and "swallowing" the closing words before a period, are fatal flaws. But they may be easily overcome by a woman with courage to train herself.

Another help comes from a critical study of those who speak well and please an audience. If nature has endowed a woman with an attractive personality and a magnetic presence, she is fortunate indeed. No woman can afford to ignore the amenities of a well-fitting, becoming gown, fresh gloves and good boots. To be over-dressed proclaims vulgarity; to be "under-dressed" is disrespect to the audience. Simplicity and elegance make a golden mean. A speaker's millinery should be carefully chosen. Let her beware of nodding flowers, fluttering plumes or anything that shakes, for, when seen at long range, they have a grotesque effect. Woe unto her if her gown tilts up in front ever so little, or she stands so as to give the effect of a protruding abdomen. This may be avoided even by stout women when in a correct position. A test is easily made by standing close to the edge of an open door and observing if nose, chest and toes touch the door, with sufficient space to pass the palm in front of the abdomen without touching the door. A study of prima donne reveals their happy secret of always inclining slightly (from the hips) towards the audience.

This gives a confidential attitude and helps speaker and listener to be en rapport with each other.

A speaker has three ways of usefulness in club life: First, the reading of manuscripts; second, short speeches in club discussions or the more formal banquets; and third, the delivery of a speech.

Whoso reads a paper should be thoroughly familiar with the manuscript, which ought to be written in a clear, bold hand, well punctuated, and carefully set in paragraphs. Give the eye to the audience whenever possible, the more frequently the better, and always when the leading ideas are enunciated. In this way the manuscript does not intrude itself between speaker and audience. Don't hold it. Both hands should be free, that unconscious gestures may illumine the meaning. Every club should provide a speaker's stand, adjustable for varying heights. A lady of fine physique and graceful pose may do well to show the whole figure, but the average woman gains by being partially screened. A clear voice, careful enunciation and great deliberation are all important. But there should also be a determination to win the audience and make every listener believe every word. Avoid monotony by cultivating a rising inflection. To this end, statements occasionally put in the interrogative form are a great help. A manuscript is properly given when it is delivered rather than read.

The short speech is more difficult. The woman who can make a good, five-minutes' speech is very rare. This may be due to lack of humor and to self-consciousness. Now and then there is a bright spirit whom "the sea of upturned faces" throws on to balance. If she speaks irreproachable English and has a well-stored mind, trained to think quickly, and a refined sense of the ludicrous, hers is an easy victory. But most women are glad of hints and helps. Edward Everett Hale, who makes a capital short speech, gives as a cardinal rule: "Be natural and conversational." He attains this by contriving to tell his thought to his nearest neighbor, and begins his public remarks with "I was just saying to my friend on the right," gliding naturally into the conversational style, as he elaborates the idea. This helps to dissipate the fatal self-consciousness and saves one from being stilted.

Col. T. W. Higginson, who is one of the finest speech-makers in America, has written a code for speakers, which should be known of all men—and women. He adds to Dr. Hale's felicitous way of starting, the rule, "Never carry a scrap of paper before an audience." He asserts that a speaker who throws himself upon his own resources, wins the sympathy of his hearers. By the eye to eye contact, they share his enthusiasm and he gets on intimate terms with them. But notes destroy this confidential relation.

Another difficulty is the treachery of memory, although the speech was carefully learned, word by word. Col. Higginson deprecates this method and gives a better way. "Plan a series of a few points as simple and orderly as possible." It is not difficult to carry in mind four or five things that are the strong points of the speech. There would naturally be some sequence of thought in these main points, which he calls the stepping-stones on which to walk safely through a speech. If the thoughts are detached, Charles Sumner's trick is helpful, of making each finger of a hand the index to which the five distinct thoughts are attached. The last rule is: "Plan beforehand for one good fact and one good illustration under each head of your speech." This keeps the proportions right and the solid reasoning is seasoned with the spice of a witty anecdote or clever story. Everybody has a lurking sense of humor, to which it is safe to appeal. But the wit must hit the mark, or woe to the speaker.

The novice, unless she has steady nerves, may find that even a few thoughts carefully prepared have vanished. A manu-



script is, after all, a strong tower if frankly used. Does not the gain in clear thinking and concise expression that result from writing an address outweigh a certain freedom and enthusiasm that is lost by having a manuscript? Some famous orators, especially the French, have had wonderful success in reading their addresses. Surely, trivialities are offered in speaking, which would never have been put on paper. But an important part of public speaking and one difficult for women, is yet untouched—how to be heard in a large hall. Professor J. W. Churchill, of Andover, kindly wrote some directions with the intention of helping two timid women, and by his guidance they were distinctly heard in the remote corners of Boston Music Hall. They were written in an informal, friendly way and not intended for publication. But their practical wisdom is too great to be lost and will work for good to the sisterhood universal.

After advising them to go to the hall and test their voices, with a friend in the distant parts to listen and criticise, Prof. Churchill says:—

1. As you rise to speak, cast your eyes easily over the audience for a few seconds, then fix them upon the farthest auditors directly in front of you, and begin to speak in a pleasant tone of voice and with an easy naturalness of manner.

2. Regulate the "pitch" and "force" of voice by actually talking to your farthest auditors. The introductory matter should be delivered as if conversing with people at that distance. At the opening of your address you do not need to attempt anything more than to make the most distant listeners hear you distinctly, and without effort on their part. In order to do this—

3. Enunciate deliberately: that is, take sufficient time to utter every syllable that a correct standard of pronunciation demands should be enunciated. The great Mrs. Siddons' prime rule was—"Take time." Be especially careful to "take time" during the delivery of the first half-dozen sentences. The characteristic of good speaking in the introductory matter is deliberateness. Much of your success will depend upon starting right.

4. As your earnestness of manner increases, still be careful to enunciate firmly and with the necessary deliberation to secure perfect syllabication. Keep the rights of the farthest auditors in mind throughout the address. If they hear you, all will hear. Be especially mindful of the distinct utterance of the closing words of sentences. Speakers often lower the pitch, diminish the force and enunciate so rapidly as to become indistinct and nearly inaudible. Secure proportion and cadence in the vocal treatment of the close of a sentence, but without sacrificing distinctness.

5. Do not be troubled about the quality of tone further than to speak in a pleasing manner.

6. As to style: Be natural; be yourself at your best. That is, talk to the people in your own way, only with the increased earnestness that arises from your deep interest in the subject, and your desire to benefit your audience; and with the effect which comes from the reflex influence of the sympathetic attention of the audience upon your feelings.

The perfection of public speaking is the perfection of talking to people earnestly. It is the tone and manner of good conversation raised to its highest power. An earnest colloquial style will be easily heard; and you will not degenerate into screaming, with its consequent unpleasantness and fatigue of voice.

7. Avoid hurry in speaking. In your most animated passages do not speak so rapidly as to injure good syllabication, or mar the clear and melodious communication of ideas.

8. Rest all you can before speaking. Compose the nerves.

If you speak in the evening, avoid getting physically tired during the day. Take a good nap in the afternoon. Sleep soundly the night before. Take a cup of hot, weak tea just before speaking, if it is possible to do so. This is desirable, though not essential.

9. Banish mental anxiety so far as you can. Do not fear that you will not be heard. Prepare yourself thoroughly and you will not fail. Be self-possessed. Self-possession depends chiefly upon thorough preparation and a proper amount of rest. If you cannot be self-possessed, be as self-possessed as you can.

This wisdom, gathered from a gentleman of superior knowledge and experience in public speaking, may serve to smooth the pathway of women who venture on the platform, helping not only in the preparation of an address, but in giving it successfully.

### WHY I DIDN'T READ A PAPER.

BY ELISABETH MERRITT GOSSE.

[Told to the New England Woman's Press Association on President's Night, Feb. 17, 1897.]

YOU see it was this way.

It was a great thing to read a paper at the Louisville Biennial, so the chairman of the literature department, Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, told me—afterward.

When we heard that our president, Mrs. Ward, had been invited to give a paper at the Louisville Biennial, we all felt very proud. I must explain for the benefit of those who may be so unfortunate as not to be members of women's clubs, that there is a very fine distinction between reading a paper and giving a paper. Somebody else may write a paper, and you may read it. You may write a paper and somebody else may read it. But, if you both write and read a paper, then you give a paper. So when we heard that our president, Mrs. Ward, was to give a paper, we all felt very proud; and when we heard that one of our ex-presidents, Miss Winslow, was also to give a paper, then we felt more proud. The fact that I was asked to read a paper made no impression in Boston, for nobody knew anything about it; I was not asked to read it until we were on the train between Cincinnati and Louisville. Though I may have a little local reputation, reaching perhaps from West Roxbury to Dorchester, as a writer of papers, there I was to be given an opportunity to attain fame as a reader of papers. Besides, they wanted somebody who could speak up; and everybody who knows me knows I've got a regular megaphone voice.

The paper was on Hannah Adams. Hannah Adams was the pioneer club woman. There weren't any women's clubs in Hannah Adams' day, so she clubbed all alone by herself. But the committee of arrangements thought it would be interesting to the federated club women to hear about Hannah Adams.

I will pass over our arrival in Louisville and come to the morning when the convention opened, when I found myself, on arriving at McCauley's theatre, a little late. There were one thousand delegates, and nine hundred and ninety-nine of them, like me, were a little late, and so, as I went up the stairs of the theatre, I found my progress somewhat accelerated by outside influence; I was gently pushed, and I stepped on something, and something gave way. I had on a petticoat—a silk petticoat with two ruffles—and I was under the impression that I had stepped on one of the ruffles, and that it was torn off, and I thought if only I had a pin I could pin it up, so it would do till I got back to the hotel.

I gave a hasty glance around at the throng of earnest and devoted women, each one of them intent upon reaching a seat in the quickest possible time. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Dakota rushed by in phalanxes of fifty

and one hundred; Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin tore along as if determined to get there, or know the reason why; while California, Connecticut, Colorado and Wyoming went by as if proving the truth of the promise that the first shall be last, and the last first. As I looked into the faces of those earnest, devoted women, so full of lofty aims and noble aspirations, I did not dare stop one and mention so trivial a thing as a pin.

So I looked around and I saw a door—an open door—and over it a sign, "Bureau of Information." "Ah," I said, "that's the place for me." I went in at the open door and I saw a woman sitting behind a table; she arose and came towards me with a regular Boston-Woman's-Educational-and-Industrial-Union-smile. I knew when I saw that smile that I was to be done for.

"What would you like to know about?" she said.

And I said, "I'd like to know about a pin."

"A pin?"

"Yes, a pin."

"What do you want of a pin?"

"Why, I've stepped on my petticoat, and torn off the ruffle, and I thought if only I had a pin, I could pin it up."

She shook her head slowly. "You can't have a pin here."

"Can't I? Why not?"

"Because there aren't any pins here."

"Oh, isn't there any upper drawer in this bureau?"

"You can't have a pin here. You must go to the dressing-room."

Then she put out her hand and rang a little bell very energetically, and one of those lovely young ushers, gowned in white, who were such a feature of the convention, appeared.

"Take this lady to the dressing-room, and have her pinned up, and have everything done for her."

"Oh," I said, "there isn't any need of that, if you would just let me have a pin here, I could pin it myself."

"No," she said, "you can't have a pin here; you must go to the dressing-room."

Well, on the principle that the least said is the soonest pinned, I started to follow this lovely young usher. She took me through a winding way, all beautifully decorated with wreaths of laurel, and ropes of evergreen, and palms, and ferns, and potted plants and flowers; until we came to an archway, where stood another woman. She looked at me with sugared looks, like poster smiles in picture books; and she said, "Where are you going?"

And I said, "I don't know."

"Have you a ticket for the stage?"

"No, I haven't."

"Then you can't go on the stage."

"Humph!" said I, "I don't want to go on the stage."

"Where do you want to go?"

"Well," I said, "I don't want to go anywhere, but this lovely young usher insists upon taking me somewhere."

Then I looked ahead and the lovely young usher, gowned in white, trusting in my honesty of purpose, and confiding in my willingness to follow, had disappeared. Like all the rest of those lovely young ushers, gowned in white, she was simply out of sight.

I turned and flew back to the Bureau of Information, through which I must pass in order to reach the foyer. I poked my head around the door, and peeked in, and I saw that tall, large woman talking with another woman; and when she sat down behind her table, with cautious and circuitous movements I sat down behind her: I thought I'd see if I couldn't find a pin; but I couldn't, and I thought sadly upon my pin-cushion at home.

Just then Mrs. Breed came in, and said, "What are you doing here?" And I said, "I'm not doing anything."

"Well then," she said, "why don't you go to your seat?"

"Because I haven't got any pin. Have you a pin?"

"No," she said, "I haven't, but if I had, you should have it."

Just then the woman behind the table turned to Mrs. Breed and said, "I have been trying to persuade her to go to the dressing-room, and she won't go." Then she turned to me and said, "Now, if you will only go to the dressing-room, you shall have everything done for you; you shall be pinned up, and brushed off; you shall have your head bathed, and your boots taken off, and your feet rubbed."

And I said, "I don't want my feet rubbed, and I won't have my feet rubbed!"

"Now, my dear," said Mrs. Breed, "don't cry. Your nose will swell, and your eyes will turn red, and you will look like a perfect fright."

"I know it," I said, "I always look like a fright, and I wish I hadn't come. I don't like Louisville one bit."

"Now, my dear," said Mrs. Breed, "you're all worked up; you're overwrought. You've come off a long journey and you're all tired out. You're all unnerved; you're all unstrung."

"Yes, I am," I agreed. "I'm everything but opinionated!"

"Well, now you go back to the hotel, and take a bath and go to sleep and have a good rest till dinner time; then you'll be yourself, won't you?"

That suited me exactly; so I said I would. I went down through the foyer, and up Fourth avenue, and stopped on the way and I bought a whole paper of pins. The girl that sold them to me said, "This is the dearest."

"Oh no," I said, "the dearest thing on earth to me is 'home, sweet home!'"

When I got back to the hotel, I went to my room, and rang for hot water and proceeded to make myself comfortable. Just then there came a knock at my door, and I said "Who is it?"

And a voice answered, "Aunt Jennie." Aunt Jennie is Mrs. Bosson, first vice-president of the Reading Women's Club, member of the Ladies' Aid Association and of the State council of the Daughters of the Revolution!

"What is it, Aunt Jennie?" I called, with a circumflex accent which went over the transom, "What is it?"

"Why, they are waiting for you to read the paper on Hannah Adams; they've sent me for you; I've got a carriage down at the door. Come right along, don't wait for anything, come just as you are!"

"But, Aunt Jennie, I can't come just as I am. I'm taking a bath."

"Taking a bath! Why, how came you to be taking a bath now?"

"Because Mrs. Breed told me to."

"But how came she to tell you to?"

"Why, because, Aunt Jennie, I'm overwrought. I'm all worked up. I'm all unnerved. I'm all unstrung. I'm all undressed. Aunt Jennie, I can't come just as I am."

"Well," said Aunt Jennie, still on the other side of the door. "What is to be done? Give me the paper on Hannah Adams, and somebody else must read it."

So I opened the door a crack and poked Hannah Adams through. I pushed her through, and I thrust her through, and I banged the door, and I slammed the door, and I turned the key. Then for the first and only time in my life I peeped through the keyhole. Aunt Jennie was rolling Hannah Adams up, and putting her in her Boston bag.

"Aunt Jennie," I called, "Aunt Jennie, if I can't read that convention a paper, I can give that convention a paper—of pins." But Aunt Jennie was flying down the corridor with Hannah Adams.

The closing evening of the convention arrived. We had



transacted our business; we had amended our constitution and by-laws; we had elected our officers; and the women of every section of this country had come into touch with each other. I told some of the girls that I guessed I wouldn't go down to the theatre with the rest of the crowd. I had the material for a good long letter for the Boston Herald, and I would stay in my room and write, and then come down to the theatre just before the convention closed. So I wrote until about nine o'clock, and then called a carriage. When I reached the theatre it was evident that the closing moments of the convention were at hand. The foyer was deserted, the big policeman who had stood there all the week, keeping the women from coming out of the door they ought to go in at, and from going in the door that they ought to come out of, was gone. The club post office was closed, and the sign was down from the "Bureau of Information."

I went up through the deserted foyer and opened the swinging doors which led into the corridor around the entire building, and what do you think I saw? Three women. Three women—with ammonia at their noses, their heads being bathed, their boots off and their feet being rubbed!

And then I made a little speech. I said, "Ladies, ladies, I'm sorry for you, but I am rejoiced to find that the Louisville women's club has found some one whose feet it can rub. You've got six feet, while I have but two!"

Then I went in. In all that great auditorium there were only three vacant seats. I took two of them.

### WHAT WILL BECOME OF CLUB WOMEN?

An exchange says, in speaking of the wonderful progress of the world in scientific fields and along the lines of modern invention: By and by a person will be along patenting a Womanless Wife, actuated by electricity and with a phonograph for lungs. She will do everything as well as Dalziel's Chess Player did one thing; she will sweep and cook twice as fast as a she woman could, and will cost nothing for board or doctor's bills. Above all, she can be turned on or off by just pressing a button. There will be wits then to find her superiority and proclaim the disappearance of woman. But there will always be a few not too lazy, too hurried, or too timid to worry along with the old flesh and blood pattern; and there will still be mothers to spank the rudiments of common sense into the children that continue and balance the world.

Why not forestall the new year by beginning the club year with a good resolution or two? Let us faithfully resolve that:

We will on no excuse whatever allow our enthusiasm for club work to upset the inner sense of right and repose which ought to be the natural possession of each one of us.

We will curb our superabounding inclination to take a hand in every good work we can hear of.

We will try to introduce the kingdom of heaven into club life by having it within ourselves.

We will remember the words of Solomon, "Better is a dinner of herbs than a stalled ox where contention is."

Which means that we will cultivate peace and harmony and tolerance whether we shine as brilliant intellects or not.

And that we will love all women, especially if they are our club sisters.

### HE KIND O'RECKONS SO.

BY HELEN M. WINSLOW.

**T**HE women down't the Corners hev gone an' formed a club:

Mis' Barney she begun it, after vis'tin' at the Hub.

She says all Boston women go to their clubs an' speak An' 'tend right out on meetin's every day right through the week.

She says a woman must belong to at least to one or two, An' ef they make it twenty the better it will do.

I jedge the world's a-waggin' as women want it to, The' mayn't be nothin' in it,

—but I kind o' reckon so.

In my day wives an' mothers stayed hum most of the time, An' middlin' good they ev'raged,—while some on 'em was prime.

But now the's new opinions 'bout the vally of their work: An' some say women owe the world a duty they can't shirk. Wal, mebbe:—still the 'postle Paul an' other learned men Hev held it was immodest to be a crowin' hen.

But now, to-day, the world wags as women want it to: The' mayn't be nothin' in it,

—but I kind o' reckon so.

Leastways, our women met and formed a real workin' club, An' 'twas modelled an' 'twas patterned jes' like one down't the Hub.

Mis' Barney she's the president an' talks by parli'ment rule An' all the rest defer to her, jes' like it was a school, Excep' when things git lively an' some one moves a motion Thet some one else condemns as nothin' but a silly notion: An' then, the way their tongues wag,—as them women want them to—

The' mayn't be nothin' in it,

—but I kind o' reckon so.

But on the hull, they manage with quite a level head, An' all us men are wonderin' how long thet we've been dead. We've suddenly discovered,—or the club has made us see— A hundred things to fix to make this town what it should be. The meetin' house an' schoolhouse are gittin' some new paint: The schools are jest aflourishin',—an' don't you think they aint: The hull town's gone to waggin' as women want it to: The' mayn't be nothin' in it,

—but I kind o' reckon so.

So let 'em go to meetin's an' hev their clubs an' things, As long as Progress kivers the Corners with her wings: Ef education, morals and heart-religion too Is what the "great club-movement" means, then let 'em put it through.

It's lucky fer the Corners these women do aspire An' mebbe by their efforts they'll bring us all up higher. Then let the world go waggin' as women want it to: The' mayn't be nothin' in it,

—but I kind o' reckon so.

### AT A GIRL'S CLUB.

"One of the girls brought a nest to our bird club yesterday that we couldn't classify at all."

"What did you do about it?"

"We called in a man, and he said it was a hen's nest."—Chicago Record.

## PROBLEM OF THE LARGE DEPARTMENT CLUB.

BY MISS HELEN A. WHITTIER.

(Concluded from October number.)

**B**Y the successful management of a club I mean such an administration of its affairs that all things are done decently and in order; that the round pegs do not "rattle round" in square holes, and the square pegs are not squeezed into the round holes; that the friction of mind upon mind, which is necessary for transmission of power, may not for lack of the lubricating oil of tact, become the friction which stops the wheels of progress; such an administration that a proper balance is maintained between the several departments of work; that the varying needs of a large membership are intelligently met; that the public attitude of the club may be dignified and conservative, yet hospitable to progressive thought; in short such an administration that not only shall specified objects be attained, but that all the possibilities of the club, material, intellectual and spiritual, may be harmoniously developed with the greatest resultant benefits to the individual and to the community.

This ideal administration must rest upon an ideal constitution: i. e., one carefully yet broadly drawn on the general lines which have been approved by experience, with suitable adaptation to local conditions, with fundamental principles explicitly declared, and omitting such details of administration as may be safely left to the more elastic rulings of the executive body.

For a large club the name should be carefully chosen; it should be dignified and distinctive, with honorable and inspiring associations; and much more should the definition of the objects of the club receive careful attention from the framers of the constitution. The objects of a great department club, worthily conceived, may be so worthily stated that the second article of the constitution shall become the rallying cry of the club, ever calling it forward to greater achievements.

It is hardly necessary to say that the business of a large club should be placed entirely in the control of an executive body, as experience proves it to be a waste of time to submit details of management to the consideration of a club which is organized for other and higher objects. This Executive Council—as I like to call it—should be large enough to allow such subdivision into committees, that club interests in all their ramifications may be carefully studied. A most valuable provision is that adopted by the Middlesex and a few other clubs, of electing at the annual meeting a certain number of officers, say fifteen, who shall immediately appoint—let us say seven—chairmen of departments, which appointment completes the organization of the executive council. This combines the advantages of election and appointment in a satisfactory manner, and the conduct of the departments can thus be brought most easily into harmony with the general policy which the officers should not fail to formulate regarding the entire program of club work.

The number and scope of the departments will, of course, vary with the objects, the character and the environment of the club, but if named in the constitution, care should be taken to provide a somewhat scientific classification, and to use names as inclusive as possible.

To illustrate: A great majority of clubs have departments of home, of philanthropy, of civics, of household economics, of social science, etc., two or three of these often taking rank as separate departments in one club program, but very few clubs as yet use the word sociology, which is the inclusive term covering all the above, and many other branches, as well as all the underlying problems of the science of social phenomena.

On the other hand, to include history in a department of literature seems to confine the attention chiefly to the literary style in which a given history may be written. One of the ancients has said that "History is philosophy teaching by example," and in this light it should be studied (to use Prof. Seeley's words) "not only to gratify curiosity about the past but to modify our view of the present and our forecast of the future," and it thus becomes one of the most important and practical branches of study. The popular and instructive class in current events may logically become a section in the department of history if desired, as the events considered should, generally speaking, be only those which are helping to make history, and not as sometimes happens, those which might fall under the head of newspaper gossip.

Soon after appointment, each of the department chairmen should nominate from the club a committee of five or six, to assist her in carrying on her department, all these committees to be confirmed by the executive council. In order to unify the club work, these several chairmen should be organized into a committee on department work, with a chairman chosen from the officers, the first vice-president being perhaps the ideal choice.

In this committee will be arranged the dates of meetings, and all other details which will bring the several departments into harmonious working. It will also deliberate on the appropriations which may be necessary to carry on the different departments, the proportion of home talent to be utilized, the changes in methods demanded from time to time, and perhaps most important of all, will study how best to bring about that correlation of subjects which helps so much to broaden the mental outlook and to give the true perspective values in life. In presiding over this committee, it will be seen that the first vice-president gains valuable experience that will be of service if she is later called to fill the president's chair.

So far as I can learn from the study of year books, most clubs having committees on department work entrust to them the conduct of the regular club sessions, each committee providing for perhaps two meetings during the season. This plan is doubtless to be commended in many cases, especially when the club finances will not cover the cost of paid lecturers, and home talent must be largely drawn upon. But in the ideal scheme which I am outlining the club founders will have had the courage and the wisdom in the beginning to place the annual fee at such a figure that the treasury will be able to supply rich and satisfying club privileges to all the members.

Out of eighty clubs in this Massachusetts Federation whose statistics I have examined, twenty-four have over two hundred members, but only seven have annual fees above three dollars, and seventy-five per cent of the whole number have fees of two dollars or less.

The Middlesex Women's Club began with a five-dollar entrance fee, and a three-dollar annual fee, but the council found during the first year that the annual fee would be inadequate to keep the work up to the standard which the club demanded, and at the first annual meeting the fee was raised from three to five dollars. The argument which triumphed over the opposition to this increase was that the additional two dollars in question was for each member simply two dollars in hand, capable of purchasing two dollars worth of millinery—or books—or what not; but if invested by the whole four hundred, in the club treasury, each individual member would receive full value from the resulting eight hundred dollars. No one can be found in that club to-day who regrets the change. No assessments are ever made upon the members, and besides the expensive courses of lectures many privileges are made possible by ample funds. For instance, in 1896 one hundred dollars was spent for a course of lectures in the education department, on business



law, and in 1897 the like sum was spent for a course of lessons by Mrs. Shattuck on parliamentary forms, which were open to all the club members; and these things were done without curtailment in other directions.

We will therefore endow our ideal club with ample funds, and will then select from the council a lecture committee whose important function shall be to bring to the club that inspiration and help which come from the words and presence of eloquent and gifted men and women. A committee which rightly apprehends this function, keeping ever a sympathetic touch upon the pulse of the club, and a critical outlook over the lecture field, and working in co-operation with the committee on department work, will develop a really artistic faculty of arranging a club program. The aim of these two committees will constantly be to guard against the tendency to be satisfied with the rich feast of the lecture course, to the neglect of proper mental exercise on the part of the club members; in other words the lecture course will be regarded not as an end in itself, but as means to a nobler end, suggesting lines of thought and action which shall inspire and energize all departments.

The process of centralization begun in the committee of department work may well be carried still further by provision of the constitution or by rule of the council. The financial problems of the club should be entrusted to a standing committee on finance, made up in such a manner that each of its members shall be able to bring to its deliberations definite knowledge of some branch of the club expenditures. The chairman of the finance committee should have a place on the lecture committee, that its financial needs may be clearly understood. The chairman of department work should have a place on the finance committee, in order to intelligently advise in both committees in regard to department appropriations. The president and treasurer will also be ex officio members. All matters concerning sub-rentals, contracts for printing, purchases of club supplies, etc., should be entrusted to other members of this finance committee, which made up in this representative way will be able at the beginning of the fiscal year, to forecast the probable receipts and expenses of the club, and to arrange a complete schedule of appropriations which shall be presented to the executive council for adoption or amendment. The other committees will then be able to lay out the year's work in advance with a clear understanding of the amount of money which they may expend. The chairman of the finance committee, with the treasurer, will keep a close watch of all disbursements, and will be able at any time to decide understandingly whether it is wise to incur any extraordinary expense.

The finance committee then will be the central point to which will converge all the club's material interests, and the power thus concentrated will radiate to all the departments and committees, and be transmuted by them into "sweetness and light" for each individual member of the club.

Other committees will be necessary to arrange various details which in a large club are numerous and often vexatious, but these three committees—on department work, on lectures, and on finance, should constitute the backbone of the council, and will furnish occupation for all its members. There will seldom be lack of a quorum in a body where each member feels responsibility for a definite share of the work; the president, too, will be surrounded by a cabinet whose members will relieve her from the consideration of an infinite number of details, and upon them she can rely for wise suggestions and counsel.

In the development of the policy of such an executive body, the result of a harmonious composite of many opinions, the club will gradually come to perceive the fact, that the measures adopted by its council are intended to subserve the greatest good of the greatest number, and will learn to abstain from

captious criticism, as confidence grows that the management is impartial and disinterested.

Considering the limitations of human nature, and especially of the average woman's training in organized endeavor, does this ideal scheme for the organization of a great department club seem difficult of realization? From a body of twenty or thirty women can we expect such unity of spirit with such diversity of gifts, such harmony of action, such surrender of personal opinions and ambitions, as will ensure the ideal administration?

In answer to these questions I can only point to my concrete example and say, "Such a scheme has been realized—such harmonious and unselfish work has been done." And the secret of this, which constitutes the greatest success of this successful club, lies just here: that the effort has constantly been to ensure for each and every office the "selection of the fittest"; the right pegs have so far as possible been inserted in the appropriate holes. It is, of course, an axiom that as regards the officers, choice should fall upon a president who can preside, upon a clerk who can record, upon a corresponding secretary who will correspond. Equal care should be taken that directors shall be qualified to direct, and committees to deliberate and report intelligently. Only in this way can the work be so carried on that the president need not succumb to the overwhelming pressure of club interests.

One of the older clubs in this Federation has a wise provision in its by-laws in regard to the selection of a nominating committee. The chairman of that committee shall be one of the retiring members of the executive council; and of the other two members appointed from the club, one shall have served the previous year on the nominating committee. A committee thus constituted is much more likely to present candidates who will strengthen the council than is a committee chosen at random, which has never given a thought to the general policy of the club nor the qualities needed in its management.

Rotation in office should be provided by the constitution, but in a large club this rotation should be sufficiently slow, that the experience gained in one administration may be handed on to another. The president's term may well be limited to three years, but if directors and other officers prove able and willing to carry responsibility it will inure to the best interests of the club if each year only a small number of the council be displaced by new members. This influx of new blood should however, be constant, and its choice should be carefully guarded by the principle of the "selection of the fittest." If two directors are to be elected, for instance, the nominating committee should know what special committees of the council need strengthening, and should endeavor to select nominees with the right qualifications. The natural working of the club routine will every year fit a larger number of women for intelligent work in committees and offices.

Ample scope for the exercise of every kind of ability is provided by the variety of interests in a large inclusive club, with its practical work in civics, in sociology and in education, its courses of study in history, science, art and literature, and above all with its financial and administrative problems; and this principle of the "selection of the fittest" adopted as the guiding rule in all appointments, ever renewing and strengthening an organization which at once divides and centralizes all responsibilities, will, I believe, not only solve the most important "Problem of the Great Department Club," but will also make of the club and of the executive council a training school which shall "further the education of women for the responsibilities of life."

## THE PRESENT BIRD LITERATURE.

BY MRS. ORINDA DUDLEY HORNBROOKE.

(Chairman of the Massachusetts Committee on the Protection of Birds.)

THOSE of us who have been working for the preservation of our birds, anxiously ask, when we meet one another, "What have we gained?"

We ought to have gained much. In Massachusetts during the last winter and spring, meetings in the interest of bird protection were held in many places. The papers, both religious and secular, published frequent articles on the subject. At the meeting of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs at Great Barrington in June last, resolutions were passed condemning the wearing of wild birds or their feathers, and recommending the consideration of bird protection to every club in the State.

A little later the Massachusetts Legislature in response to a beautiful and unique petition, written by Senator Hoar, and purporting to come from the birds themselves, passed a law making it punishable by a fine to buy, sell, or wear the dead bodies of the wild birds of Massachusetts or any portion thereof.

So the bird lovers felt that a great deal had been done to elevate public opinion and that a long step in advance had been taken.

The summer millinery was gorgeous with gay flowers and airy with chiffon; and though the barbaric wings were still seen they were not numerous.

But we did not dare to rest assured of permanent gain till the change of season should bring the fall and winter fashions, for then feathers are always most worn.

The autumn millinery has come, and, unhappily, our fears and not our hopes have prevailed.

Those of us who want the world to respect the intellects and the hearts of the educated and cultured women of this boastful era of women's activity may well bow our heads in shame at the sight of the milliner's windows and show-cases. They are a heart break to a bird lover and an exponent of the thoughtlessness and barbaric taste of women. There are whole birds, sometimes several, on a hat, and wings in profusion. On one hat I counted ten, five on a side. The wickedly graceful aigrette from the rapidly disappearing white heron, the "bonnet martyr," as he is well called in that delightful new book, "The Citizen Bird," seems almost as much used as ever, and Paradise plumes and feathers of every color and kind are shown in the greatest profusion.

A gentleman said that he really pitied a young girl he saw whose picture hat was so loaded down with poultry and game that it seems as if the weight of it must break her slender neck. Were the fashion not so painful in its barbarity it would be wildly ridiculous.

Every fashion paper chronicles the smartness of bird and feather trimmings. It seems as if the bird skin dealers must be in league with the fashion writers.

One periodical gives directions for home taxidermy for millinery purposes, recommending the gathering of a collection of birds, wings and breasts and giving minute directions how to prepare them. The morale of the article may be judged when it recommends the collecting of blue birds, yellow birds and warblers, the killing of which is prohibited in nearly every State, as well as game and larger birds. We still hear women assert that the aigrettes they wear are made of whalebone, in spite of the reiterated information that there is no such thing as a whalebone aigrette. Those so called are the inferior plumes

of the heron and sometimes those of the cassowary cut off bluntly.

I think the most extreme case of credulity I ever heard of was that of an American woman in Paris, who was buying a little bonnet which she found a most becoming creation. She had the humanity to object to the little bird on it. "But," said Madame, "that bird was not killed, it died a natural death, so there is no harm in wearing it. I will bring you a physician's certificate that it is so." The lady agreed to take the bonnet on those conditions. The alleged certificate was forthcoming. The bonnet was purchased and worn. Truly none so gullible as those who are willing to be deceived.

In thinking of the future results to the world of the destruction of a class of beings whose beauty and usefulness are of the highest order, we know that

"The mills of God grind slowly,  
But they grind exceeding small,"

and sooner or later the punishment for our senseless inhumanity and waste will come.

Without our bird friends to protect us, the insects that buzz and sting and creep, and crawl and slime, will have their own way in the world, and that way will not be for the comfort and well being of man.

Even now in the Southern swamps, where the white heron has been exterminated, observers say that the snakes have increased beyond all measure. The herons who used to feed on their eggs are gone, the balance of nature is destroyed, and the lower form of life prevails.

In Jamaica, where the tiniest of the humming bird species, a creature as beautiful as a gem, was formerly abundant, not one has been seen for several years. They were all killed for bonnet trimmings. Besides their wonderful beauty, they rendered a service which nothing else seems able to do. With their long, needle-like bills they plucked a tiny insect out of the heart of the orange flower. No insecticide has been discovered which does for the orange grower what the humming birds did for him, and the oranges are consequently inferior in quality. Truly, interfering with nature is like a boy monkeying with a buzz saw—something unpleasant is very likely to happen.

Do women who wear birds ever stop to think what an injury to the intellectual and moral influence of our sex they are inflicting by persisting, in the face of all the evidence of biological and scientific writers, in a fashion which is doing such injury to the beauty and productiveness of the world?

Said a young medical student in my house a few weeks ago, "I don't see what the ladies can have to say against vivisection, for that has a purpose of usefulness and mercy at least; but the birds on their hats which were perhaps skinned alive, were sacrificed for a useless fashion." And he proceeded to tell me, what I had known before, but what many women probably do not know, of the horrible practice of skinning birds alive in Italy to preserve the brilliancy of their feathers.

I did not know till recently that the same ghastly practice obtains in this country, but the beautiful summer red birds in the South are subjected to the same fiendish treatment.

Any woman who wears a bird corpse on her bonnet is a possible party in this wicked business.

Many say that only the birds of the tropical forests and swamps are used and that there will always be enough of them any way. That is a careless and untrue statement.

Besides the enormous importation of foreign birds, our native birds, in spite of law and gospel, are killed and worn to a great extent.

Frank Chapman, the ornithologist, stood on Broadway and counted forty-one species of our native birds on the hats of the women who passed by. There were robins, blue birds, yellow birds, warblers, orioles, wax-wings, bobolinks, grackles,



grosbeaks, jays, king birds, and swallows, besides others not so common. Our native birds not troubled, indeed!

And that is poor morality which demands the sacrifice of the beauty and productiveness of another country, and is contented if it spares its own.

If only ignorant and untrained women persisted in this fashion it would soon go, but when women of the highest intellectual attainments and social position act with such cruel thoughtlessness as they do now, it is disheartening indeed.

But, in spite of all discouragements, the bird lover must work on, trying to awaken the public conscience to the terrible wrong and evil that is being so carelessly wrought.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

**T**HIS department will be open for questions on all subjects pertaining to women's clubs. It will be an "Open Court," in which every club woman is invited not only to ask questions but to assist in answering them.

Half-minute questions and one-minute answers will be the rule governing all participants.

Address all communications for this department to Correspondence Editor, The Club Woman, 104 School Street, Egleston Square, Boston, Mass.

Questions will be numbered consecutively; replies should be numbered to correspond with the questions.

### QUESTIONS.

3. Should the same club women be elected year after year delegates to the State Federation, or should the newer members be sent?

4. What is considered authority on parliamentary law for clubs and societies? Has the G. F. adopted a manual?

5. Is it advisable for women's clubs to attempt to influence political affairs in small towns?

### ANSWERS.

"1. Is it better to transact club business in open meeting, or to delegate it to an Executive Board?"

It seems to me, dear Club Woman, that it all depends on the club and the quality of its members. If parliamentary training is desired, no other opportunity is as good a place to learn it—not even a parliamentary class with a fine teacher. Let the members learn not only to get on their feet, but to talk there, when they have something earnest to say. They will learn to "talk through the chair" (without talking through their hats!) twice as easily as when they are discussing imaginary amendments to amendments with no particular interest to spur them on. And certainly, they will learn self-control better in the open business meeting—even at the expense of a few trials of temper—than in any other way.

On the other hand, if it be a study club, it is not worth while to waste time in open meetings, which might better be given to the regular work for which the club exists. In such clubs the more business left to advisory boards the better. In forming a club and making the by-laws this question ought to be very carefully considered. If general, all-around club work and parliamentary practice are wanted, make it necessary for advisory boards to bring all business to the open meeting for final settlement. If literary or other study is the object pure and simple, give routine business to the advisory board, and then leave it there!

AN EX-PRESIDENT.

"2. Which is better, a two-dollar annual fee with possible

assessments, or a five-dollar annual fee with no further assessments?" It strikes me that a club with a five-dollar annual fee will feel the pressing need of extra funds as quickly and sorely as one with a two-dollar fee. With a generous annual fee there will be a generous spirit abroad in the club, and affairs will be brought about that are either on an extravagant scale or are uncalled for and unimportant. A small annual due, with no assessments, by-lawed for security, will keep a club in good working order, make it expedient in resources, wise in economy, active in good works, and sweet in flavor and tone. I am strongly opposed to a five-dollar annual fee; it is prohibitive for many women, and it makes a club not only opulent in the treasury, but extravagant in expenditure. E. H. S.

Although a club woman of long standing and belonging to four different clubs, I have not as yet been obliged to meet an assessment in any one of the clubs. I do not believe that assessments should ever be levied; if the funds of the club received from annual dues are not sufficient for the needs of the society, then the needs had better be squared to the conditions. In a well-conducted club the work, ordinary or extraordinary, can be prosecuted without calling for an assessment. I believe in a two-dollar annual fee and no assessments; a five-dollar fee is too much. F. R. L.

Dear Club Woman: By all means, the large fee for the large department club. It gives us the benefit of class work and of such lecture courses as are utterly beyond the possibilities of a small or low-priced club. The woman who pays five dollars usually gets more than ten times as much for her money as she who only pays a one-dollar annual fee. L. H. W.

Change is absolutely necessary to development. A woman whose life knows no change becomes morbid, narrow-minded, self-opinionated, unlovable and unhappy. To many women a decided change is absolutely impossible. There are the duties undertaken that cannot be neglected, and there is no money with which to employ help. It is hard to get away from home for even a few hours, and then rest seems more to be coveted than any change that can be secured for so short a time; but in the neighborhood where the woman's club has made its appearance this state of affairs no longer exists. There is something to look forward to so entirely different from the everyday life that one is given the necessary stimulus to undertake the task of getting away from home. A woman may not be in entire sympathy with all that is said and done at these clubs, but it is good for her to be where she can compare ideas with others, and more especially such ideas as are usually brought out in a large company.—Mrs. Euphemia Woods, Minneapolis, Minn.

### THY GIFT.

Hast thou the gift of singing? Let others hear thy song:  
Hast thou the gift of eloquence? To others doth belong  
The pictures of thy fancy, the glory of thy dreams:  
O, let the brooklets of thy joy flow into other streams.  
Or if thy talent be but small, use it and it shall grow.  
The little rill the stream doth fill to make the lake below.  
Thou surely canst one gift possess, the gift of helpfulness,  
The gift of all the gifts the best: use it with thankfulness.

And if 'tis food, the Woman's Club is helpful unto this,  
Enter its portals, give thine aid, how can it be amiss?  
Go to the club,—one club, not five or dozens, more or less,  
One club,—thine own,—and work for it with loving-heartedness.  
Be punctual. Be loyal. Be sure to do thy best:  
Helping thy neighbor, let it put thy loving to the test.

JULIA HARRIS MAY.

## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND WOMEN'S CLUBS.

BY MRS. JOHN OTTLEY.

(The following paper was read at the Nashville Council meeting G. F. W. C., Oct. 21.)

NO less earnestly than in '76 America is struggling today for the attainment of democracy. By many object lessons the world has learned that the death of tyrants does not secure freedom, nor universal suffrage bring about equality. Many other foes must be vanquished, and the fight for "liberty, equality, fraternity" is no less real because, as some one has remarked, "the day of the blessed guillotine is past."

Our forefathers had no sooner caught their breath after their grapple with the spirit of monarchism than they found themselves engaged in a far more serious problem, viz.: the attempt to make into a reality the beautiful prophecy of their Declaration of Independence, and arrange some mode of life and society in which all men might be "born free and equal." This problem we have inherited from them. The gravity of it is, of course, immensely enhanced by the fact that this new "land of the free" became at once responsible for the life and liberty of thousands whose birth had happened under alien circumstances.

To emancipate its own millions, in the true sense of the word, would be a Herculean task for any nation, and since immigration has added so much of complexity to the problem, we feel that our heroes of '76 had rather the easiest part of the job.

Democratic equality has long since come to mean to most students of society equality not of condition, but of opportunity, and for this state of equality America is making a wonderful fight today.

The first step towards this equality of opportunity is universal education, and no nation is bending its energies to this end so earnestly as the United States. Our tremendous public school system, which, with all its faults, is yet the best in the world, is receiving an earnest attention from government, States, and individuals, which assures greater perfectionment.

The best evidence of the depth of our conviction that an ignorant citizenship cannot mould a great republic is to be found in the ever-increasing laws for compulsory education. This is significant.

You know the French accuse us of being dreadfully afraid of words. They say we are daring enough when it comes to the thing itself, but before words we tremble.

Now, if there is one word (except Socialism) at which our American spirit most readily takes alarm, it is Paternalism.

Now, a law for forcing education, and the accompanying laws which regulate the age of child labor, smacks strongly of this dreaded paternalism, and yet, each year adds to the roll of States which have adopted such laws, showing their realization that without such paternalism, our democracy can ever attain itself.

The pretty dreams of the socialist which give to each citizen so many hundreds a year are chimeras, but they drive home to us the necessity for strenuous effort towards this attainable Utopia—a democracy of equal opportunity, in which each citizen shall be possessed of, at least, a modicum of practical education. No gift to the classes and masses could do for them and the nation what this state will insure. Comtes' formula: "We know to foresee, we foresee to control," suggests to us that knowledge is not a luxury but a tool.

To demand citizenship or expect cogency of life from an ignorant man, is like asking a juror to make up his mind without putting him in possession of the facts in the case.

Dr. Lester Ward, of Washington, the American sociologist, whom the world is now most delighting to honor, has written in a certain "Thought Book" these lines, "Of all the panaceas that have been so freely offered for the perfectionment of the social state there is none that reaches back so far, or down so deep, or out so broad, as that of the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

But the increase of knowledge—the discovery of wholly new truths, is attended with such a charm that it may be trusted to take care of itself. The great social duty, therefore, is the universal diffusion of all the most important knowledge now extant in the world.

This, then, is the task of America today: To mould a democracy which shall extend to life and thought no less than to the ballot box.

Towards the end of this democratization of life no two movements are more pregnant than University Extension and Women's Clubs.

Entirely apart from its wonderful history and the work it has accomplished University Extension has an immense interest for the sociologist.

It is the most significant step yet taken in the world's great general advance towards democracy. Church and State have ever found their best bulwarks in a lettered clergy and an unlearned people.

"Higher education" has always been for the few, and but a generation or so ago to have been educated at a University was equivalent to a patent of gentle birth. The aristocracy of learning has ever been intrenched behind the most impregnable of caste lines. That the movement to break down these barriers and substitute an extension of knowledge for the former intension should come from the University itself is worth noting.

This has been the history of all struggles for the removal of social barriers and burdens. The French Revolution received its greatest impetus from enthusiasts among the first estate, and the social reformers who are doing most effectual propagandism today are neither dirty nor unshorn, but have long bank accounts back of them.

The central thought of University Extension is democratic. The doctor and the drayman, the minister and the miner are alike its converts. Its lectures and classes reach no special sex, age or condition, but unite all classes into those who "want to know." Moulton says that nobody is out of place at any University Extension lecture, unless that same person would be out of place at church. It is in this broad spirit that we find one marked likeness to the Women's Club movement, which is doing its work also directly on the democratic line of march.

The Woman's Club of today is an outgrowth of the small, exclusive literary society which has served such an important purpose in the advancement of thought among women. My own section, the South, has been honeycombed with them for years, and many women cannot see today why we need pass beyond them. Since their aim is social enjoyment and the acquirement of culture, their members must be most carefully chosen, not with a view to their needs, but to what they could furnish.

Hence, the woman who most needed stimulus and aim never got asked at all.

The distinction between them and the large Woman's Club, which admits all women who feel their need of stimuli is just the difference between the Christian who is content to save his own soul and the missionary who feels that he must save the souls of others. The interest of the club has thus broadened and enlarged until it now embraces the community, the state, the nation, the world.

All the main contentions of University Extension are the basic principles upon which this broad woman's club is built.



"Education is not a preparation for life; it is a part of life."  
"Education is a thing proper to no particular class of society or period of life."

And this: "Culture has, in the past, signified an exclusive and selfish spirit. Now, the mission of University Extension is to wipe away that reproach, to call upon everybody who is conscious of education gained and an interest in intellectual matters to feel that this very sense of culture is an obligation upon him to help others to be cultured. To infuse a missionary spirit into culture—that is the purpose of University Extension."

Is this not a somewhat fair statement of the purpose of the Woman's Club?

The two movements are thus, we see, closely allied. Both have the common aim: The diffusion of knowledge with a view to social betterment. Now, how do they fit into each other?

For the purpose of this discussion the Extension movement must waive precedence and consent to be fitted into us, for we shall regard the Woman's Club as the means, and University Extension as the method. Now, how can the club apply this method which brings the University to the many?

I shall make the answer twofold, and hinge it upon these two test questions, with which every club should try itself from time to time.

1st. What is the club doing for us, its members?

2d. What is the club doing for others, through us, its members?

The first question, though not nearly so imposing as the second, really stands first, not only in place but in value.

We must take time to develop ourselves before we can profitably hope to offer development to others.

"To elevate public opinion,  
And to lift up erring man,  
Is the work of the human being,  
Let us do it—if we can.  
But wait, warm-hearted sisters,  
Not quite so fast, so far,  
Tell me how we are going to lift a thing,  
Any higher than we are."

This is distinctly the age of intelligence versus impulse, and the wise observer of the philanthropies of the past has learned to dread the ill-directed enthusiasm of the ignorantly zealous, quite as much as the negative sins of omission of the coldly indifferent. More than ever before we must know before we can do, and since meliorism has carried science into philanthropy and studies conditions before it suggests remedies, we shall hope to escape the fate of the blind leading the blind. The extension of culture is a broad and beautiful thought, and surely self-culture for self-culture's sake is to be deprecated; but let us be sure we have the culture, for whatever sake, before we begin to hand it on.

There is some danger of the cart working around in front of the horse, and sometimes we are so anxious to do that we cannot spare time to learn.

Though the outdoor work of the club, its struggle with public questions and general conditions seem sometimes the chief part of the plan, we must ever bear in mind that the take in and give out of club life should be so adjusted as to leave us not empty, but filled. The study phase of our clubs must always hold an important place, and the greatest danger which besets this study phase is the temptation to smatter.

This reproach used to be believed to belong of right to women's work and study, but the women all over the world who are wrestling from the great universities the right to place M. A. and Ph. D. after their names, have proved, conclusively, that smattering is not a feminine necessity. But, in clubs where desultory work is done, without the prospect of a degree or

the wholesome awe of an examiner, this lion, smattering, all too surely lies in the way of true advancement, and it is often lamentably true that we take up great subjects, handle them gingerly, and lay them airily aside, having acquired only sufficient knowledge of them to engender that familiarity which breeds contempt. If we could only resolve to learn a few things and learn them well.

Some of the club calendars, which fall beneath my ken, remind me of a program which was arranged for the Mechanics' Institute in 1845:

"Wit and Humor, with comic songs;  
Women treated in a novel manner;  
Legerdemain and spirit rapping;  
The devil (with illustrations);  
The heavenly bodies in the stellar system;  
Palestine and the Holy Land;  
Speeches by eminent friends of education, interspersed with music, to be followed by a ball.  
Price for the whole, 2s. 6d.  
Refreshments in the Ante-room."

Of course many clubs have passed through this smattering stage, and learned by experience, the better rule, "Attempt little and do that little well."

But the new club of today need not learn this way. Experience used to be considered the best teacher, perhaps because she was the only one at our command, but that, like many other wise old sayings, has gone out of date along with the stage-coach, and the woman whose days were passed in spinning and weaving the raiment of her household. It is one of the fruits of organization that we profit by the collated wisdom gained from other people's experiences. Each young club can learn from the Federation and the Reciprocity Committee the most approved method of how "not to do it," realizing that clubs have not opened up that royal road to learning which has been so long sought for, in vain, by the sons of men who fit themselves so unwillingly to that old mandate: "If ye will not labor, neither shall ye eat," nor learn, nor have any other good thing. Should our good fairy bestow upon us the three most needed gifts I am sure one of them would be thorough systematic study.

In this great need of the inner phase of club life, then, University Extension holds out a helping hand, which may be variously laid hold upon.

I shall not particularize about these methods for close systematic study, for the details of the subject are already familiar to you all, or can be learned. Let me only refer to the great help for every club which the excellent and varied syllabi of the various universities afford. Added to the syllabi of the numerous single universities, we have a splendid course in Universal History and Literature, with fullest possible syllabi, references and questions offered by the University Association.

This course is prepared by picked professors of twenty to thirty great universities in America and Europe. Of this association our honored president is a vice-president.

2d. To the courses by correspondence which may be taken by individuals or classes.

3d. To the courses of lectures, all on one given subject, by a university specialist, which may be given in classes or to the public. All work, properly done, to count towards a degree.

These several plans for University Extension work have been, and will be, of immense and increasing value in securing for women's clubs this much needed accuracy and system in study.

(Concluded in December.)

## General Federation of Women's Clubs.

### LIST OF OFFICERS:

President,  
MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN,  
Stock Exchange Building, Chicago.

Recording Secretary,  
MRS. C. P. BARNES,  
1026 3d Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

Treasurer,  
MRS. FRANK TRUMBULL,  
1439 Franklin Street, Denver, Colo.

Vice-President,  
MRS. ALICE IVES BREED,  
Deer Cove, Lynn, Mass.

Corresponding Secretary,  
MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,  
1520 Mississippi Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

Auditor,  
MISS ANNIE LAWS,  
818 Dayton Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### USES OF FEDERATION.

THE growth of the General Federation and the large number of clubs joining it demonstrate that Women's Clubs are passing out of that phase of development of which exclusiveness is a part, and are entering into the wider one of being willing to share with many the privileges and blessings hitherto accorded to the few. More and more the Women's Clubs are ceasing to work for one sex, or for one class of people, but are endeavoring to arouse in each community an abiding interest, not alone in its culture, but in its humanity.

Thus the clubs are brought into close communion; and to the State Federations the General Federation is as necessary as to the individual club. The field is now so large that it would be impossible to form a just estimate of its needs and the work to be accomplished did not the General Federation exist, in order that once in two years the women of the country could meet together, represented by their delegates from the different clubs, compare methods of work, and consider how best the interests of the intellectual, social, and moral life of the community may be advanced.

ELLEN M. HENROTIN.

Mrs. Croly expects to have the "History of the Club Movement in America," which she is preparing under the auspices of the G. F. W. C., ready for publication early in '98. The price of the book, after publication, will be \$5.00, but to all club women who send in their orders now, the prices will be: on a special "author's autographed edition," single copies, cloth, \$3.00; half morocco, \$5.00. If five or more are ordered the price in cloth will be \$2.00 and in half morocco, \$4.50. Orders may be sent to Mrs. J. C. Croly, 222 West 23d street, New York City.

It has been decided to have only one officer listed on the G. F. W. C. rolls (the president) in order that all documents may be sent to the one most interested in bringing them directly to the members. This does not necessitate abolishing the office of Federation Secretary in a club; in fact it may be very necessary to turn over all blanks, and all correspondence, to such an officer for answer. Mrs. Moore requests that whenever a change occurs in the presidency of a club she may be promptly notified.

Any club desiring to join the General Federation can apply to the chairman of correspondence for the State in which said club is located, and receive an application blank on which to file its application, which must be accompanied by a copy of the constitution of the club and sent to the chairman of State correspondence or to the corresponding secretary of the General Federation. If the club is eligible, a certificate of membership will be sent.

The admirable code of suggestions for making up a club program, which has recently been sent out by the G. F. W. C., is printed in full on page 59, and will be found exceedingly helpful in many ways.

The General Federation, which for some years included only one foreign club—Bombay, Sorosis—now has several. Another Indian club has joined, and so have one in South America, two in London, and one in Australia.

### STATE FEDERATION NEWS.

THE program for the annual meeting of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs which was held in Bangor on October 6, 7 and 8 as guest of the Athene, Norumbega, Nineteenth Century and Kindergarten clubs of Bangor, has already been given in the Club Woman. This sixth annual meeting was one of the best in the history of the Federation. The business was dispatched with a promptness and accuracy that distinguished the president, Mrs. Frank H. Briggs, as a presiding officer. Prominent in the business, was the discussion of three constitutional amendments. Of these the tax and representation amendments were the most hotly discussed. The tax question was decided by levying a \$2 tax on each club and \$1 additional for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof. The representation to be as before, namely the president or her substitute, and one representative from each club without regard to the number of club members.

There was not a feature of the program but was admirably carried out, but the address of the President should receive more than passing mention, did space allow. It was freighted with good advice, "Be loyal to our Federation. Stimulate and strengthen it, so that we may grow in good works." "We aspire to progress, human sympathy will aid us, let us have it in no small measure, heaped up and running over." Especial attention was given to the educational question by Mrs. Briggs, and a quotation from The Northwestern Magazine published in Nebraska was given, which Mrs. Briggs felt answered the question, how "the women's clubs may become the most potent outside educational force that America has seen." "If their great opportunity is seized, that of being the guiding and sustaining power in correlating all the educational forces of the community in developing and sustaining a spirit of investigation and a spirit of loyalty in the schools, in demanding the overthrow of all influences that counteract the work of the schools, their organization will lend a glory and honor to the closing of this great century."

The address of welcome by Mrs. Hannibal Hamlin was cordial in large measure, but reminded the Federation that "the Bangor clubs yielded to the visitors the larger pleasure of giving instead of receiving, for, from the Federation these clubs expected to receive inspiration for better and higher aims."



"Divergent as the numerous clubs of the Maine Federation may be," said she, "we are united in one common end,—the advancement of our state, in culture, ethics, philanthropy and all that makes for the broadening and bettering of humanity."

The reports of the various branches would be interesting, but that of the educational committee must receive a more extended notice. This was given by Miss Mary S. Snow, supervisor of the Bangor schools and one of the most advanced and enthusiastic educators in that section. In this report Miss Snow told of vigorous work in some portions of the state, and the linking together of the Maine Federation with the National organization through the educational committees; Miss Snow urged the club women to remember the grand results that might be expected if the law which passed the Legislature last winter in regard to the grouping of towns for supervisors was observed. Altogether her report was an eloquent, earnest appeal for more decided action of the Maine Federation in this matter of education, urging that if these women were sufficiently aroused a great advancement would be made in the schools of the State.

The paper on "The Influence of the Beautiful" by Miss Mary Ann Greely of the First Woman's club of Ellsworth opened by reminding the listeners that psychologists affirm that we are so dependent upon the beautiful that were we removed absolutely from all that is lovely in nature or in art we should die, although every other condition of life were fulfilled. Miss Greely asserted that it is only artificiality that brings ugliness, and deplored the fact that the beautiful is too often separated from the practical in daily life. Advice was given in regard to the making homes beautiful without wealth. Miss Greely dwelt upon the decoration of the schoolroom, the necessity of active interest in this work and the field open to the women's clubs in this direction. "The character of the man who has no appreciation for the beautiful," she said, "is as far from the perfect whole, as that of him who has no sense of the practical."

Mrs. Edwin Sprague of Rockland also gave a most able and interesting paper on "Modern Authorship."

The closing evening session was well attended and richly enjoyed by all present. Mrs. May Alden Ward, president of the New England Woman's Press Association, gave an able paper on "Voices of To-day." No condensed report could do justice to this scholarly and comprehensive paper, which reviewed the great minds of our time, as they have spoken to the world. Optimism was the prevailing thought of the paper. "Let us believe that life is worth living" was the closing and all pervading sentiment.

The poem of the evening was by Mrs. William P. Frye, wife of the famous Maine senator. Mrs. Frye is one of the bright women of the Federation and the mother of the able president, Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs. The poem was dedicated to the Founder of Women's clubs, and is published in another column.

The closing paper of the evening was by Miss Lillian Munger of Radcliffe college, Cambridge, and was on "The English Language as it is Writ and Spoke." Miss Munger spoke of the ambitious programs arranged by some clubs, and bespoke a more serious study of "the English Language," such as will enable the club woman to meet the ever-increasing demand upon her, to speak or write to better advantage. The "three-minute talk" was also recommended. "The useful man is he who speaks as well as acts." In closing Miss Munger said: "I believe the greatest good any club can bequeath to any community is to develop in its members the power of giving forth what is within, of saying what all feel but what all cannot express—this mastery of the thought and the word." At the closing session of the Federation, Friday morning, the nominating

committee reported the following nominations: President, Mrs. Frank H. Briggs, Auburn; vice-president, Mrs. Florence C. Porter, Caribou; treasurer, Mrs. B. F. Eaton, Skowhegan; corresponding secretary, Miss Nellie Marston, Monmouth; recording secretary, Mrs. Fred H. White, Lewiston. Standing committees: Educational, Miss Mary S. Snow, Bangor; Mrs. Annie G. Pepper, Waterville; Miss Bertha L. Soule, Bath. Bureau of Reciprocity, Mrs. Wm. H. Newell, Lewiston.

The reception given by the women of the Bangor clubs to the visiting ladies was one of the pleasant social features of the Federation, and one of the most enjoyable receptions in the life of the Federation.

The most important resolution adopted was as follows:

The committee on resolutions cannot better express the stand which the Maine Federation of Clubs wishes to take upon the vital questions of the day, than in the words which have already been quoted before this body. "The Women's Club may become the most potent outside educational force that America has yet seen. If their great opportunity is seized, that of being the sustaining and guiding power in correlating all the educational forces of the community, in developing and sustaining a spirit of investigation and a spirit of loyalty to the schools, in demanding the overthrow of all influences that counteract the work of the schools, their organization will lend a glory and honor to the closing of this great century. The strength of the Women's Clubs is to be measured largely by the strength of the individual members. Large bodies are not necessarily powerful. If dangers confront our civilization they must not be met by ridicule, scorn or vituperation, but by that warm-hearted spirit of brotherhood that sees a brother in every man, a sister in every woman, God's love in every child." Therefore,

Resolved, That as the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, we co-operate heartily with the Educational Associations; we give our close and sympathetic attention to the school systems that are under our observation; we suggest that at least one meeting of the year be devoted to the thorough discussion of the condition and betterment of our schools, and in all ways identify our best strength with the advancement of public education.

Mrs. H. C. Beedy put in the following which was adopted: few thousands now remain in the possession of the state; and, whereas, from its millions of acres of rich timberland only a few thousands now remain in the possession of the state; and whereas, it is important that the natural resources of the State be preserved that the Pine Tree State may not be an empty name; therefore,

Resolved, That as the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, as far as possible, we pledge ourselves to take up the study of forest conditions and resources and to further the highest interests of our State in these respects.

#### NOTES.

The re-election of Mrs. Briggs to the Maine presidency met with the cordial approval of every club woman. Mrs. Briggs has the support of the clubs in no limited measure.

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## General Federation of Women's Clubs.

### LIST OF OFFICERS:

President,  
MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN,  
Stock Exchange Building, Chicago.

Recording Secretary,  
MRS. C. P. BARNES,  
1026 3d Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

Treasurer,  
MRS. FRANK TRUMBULL,  
1439 Franklin Street, Denver, Colo.

Vice-President,  
MRS. ALICE IVES BREED,  
Deer Cove, Lynn, Mass.

Corresponding Secretary,  
MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,  
1520 Mississippi Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

Auditor,  
MISS ANNIE LAWS,  
818 Dayton Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### USES OF FEDERATION.

THE growth of the General Federation and the large number of clubs joining it demonstrate that Women's Clubs are passing out of that phase of development of which exclusiveness is a part, and are entering into the wider one of being willing to share with many the privileges and blessings hitherto accorded to the few. More and more the Women's Clubs are ceasing to work for one sex, or for one class of people, but are endeavoring to arouse in each community an abiding interest, not alone in its culture, but in its humanity.

Thus the clubs are brought into close communion; and to the State Federations the General Federation is as necessary as to the individual club. The field is now so large that it would be impossible to form a just estimate of its needs and the work to be accomplished did not the General Federation exist, in order that once in two years the women of the country could meet together, represented by their delegates from the different clubs, compare methods of work, and consider how best the interests of the intellectual, social, and moral life of the community may be advanced.

ELLEN M. HENROTIN.

Mrs. Croly expects to have the "History of the Club Movement in America," which she is preparing under the auspices of the G. F. W. C., ready for publication early in '98. The price of the book, after publication, will be \$5.00, but to all club women who send in their orders now, the prices will be: on a special "author's autographed edition," single copies, cloth, \$3.00; half morocco, \$5.00. If five or more are ordered the price in cloth will be \$2.00 and in half morocco, \$4.50. Orders may be sent to Mrs. J. C. Croly, 222 West 23d street, New York City.

It has been decided to have only one officer listed on the G. F. W. C. rolls (the president) in order that all documents may be sent to the one most interested in bringing them directly to the members. This does not necessitate abolishing the office of Federation Secretary in a club; in fact it may be very necessary to turn over all blanks, and all correspondence, to such an officer for answer. Mrs. Moore requests that whenever a change occurs in the presidency of a club she may be promptly notified.

Any club desiring to join the General Federation can apply to the chairman of correspondence for the State in which said club is located, and receive an application blank on which to file its application, which must be accompanied by a copy of the constitution of the club and sent to the chairman of State correspondence or to the corresponding secretary of the General Federation. If the club is eligible, a certificate of membership will be sent.

The admirable code of suggestions for making up a club program, which has recently been sent out by the G. F. W. C., is printed in full on page 59, and will be found exceedingly helpful in many ways.

The General Federation, which for some years included only one foreign club—Bombay, Sorosis—now has several. Another Indian club has joined, and so have one in South America, two in London, and one in Australia.

### STATE FEDERATION NEWS.

THE program for the annual meeting of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs which was held in Bangor on October 6, 7 and 8 as guest of the Athene, Norumbega, Nineteenth Century and Kindergarten clubs of Bangor, has already been given in the Club Woman. This sixth annual meeting was one of the best in the history of the Federation. The business was dispatched with a promptness and accuracy that distinguished the president, Mrs. Frank H. Briggs, as a presiding officer. Prominent in the business, was the discussion of three constitutional amendments. Of these the tax and representation amendments were the most hotly discussed. The tax question was decided by levying a \$2 tax on each club and \$1 additional for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof. The representation to be as before, namely the president or her substitute, and one representative from each club without regard to the number of club members.

There was not a feature of the program but was admirably carried out, but the address of the President should receive more than passing mention, did space allow. It was freighted with good advice, "Be loyal to our Federation. Stimulate and strengthen it, so that we may grow in good works." "We aspire to progress, human sympathy will aid us, let us have it in no small measure, heaped up and running over." Especial attention was given to the educational question by Mrs. Briggs, and a quotation from The Northwestern Magazine published in Nebraska was given, which Mrs. Briggs felt answered the question, how "the women's clubs may become the most potent outside educational force that America has seen." "If their great opportunity is seized, that of being the guiding and sustaining power in correlating all the educational forces of the community in developing and sustaining a spirit of investigation and a spirit of loyalty in the schools, in demanding the overthrow of all influences that counteract the work of the schools, their organization will lend a glory and honor to the closing of this great century."

The address of welcome by Mrs. Hannibal Hamlin was cordial in large measure, but reminded the Federation that "the Bangor clubs yielded to the visitors the larger pleasure of giving instead of receiving, for, from the Federation these clubs expected to receive inspiration for better and higher aims."



"Divergent as the numerous clubs of the Maine Federation may be," said she, "we are united in one common end,—the advancement of our state, in culture, ethics, philanthropy and all that makes for the broadening and bettering of humanity."

The reports of the various branches would be interesting, but that of the educational committee must receive a more extended notice. This was given by Miss Mary S. Snow, supervisor of the Bangor schools and one of the most advanced and enthusiastic educators in that section. In this report Miss Snow told of vigorous work in some portions of the state, and the linking together of the Maine Federation with the National organization through the educational committees; Miss Snow urged the club women to remember the grand results that might be expected if the law which passed the Legislature last winter in regard to the grouping of towns for supervisors was observed. Altogether her report was an eloquent, earnest appeal for more decided action of the Maine Federation in this matter of education, urging that if these women were sufficiently aroused a great advancement would be made in the schools of the State.

The paper on "The Influence of the Beautiful" by Miss Mary Ann Greely of the First Woman's club of Ellsworth opened by reminding the listeners that psychologists affirm that we are so dependent upon the beautiful that were we removed absolutely from all that is lovely in nature or in art we should die, although every other condition of life were fulfilled. Miss Greely asserted that it is only artificiality that brings ugliness, and deplored the fact that the beautiful is too often separated from the practical in daily life. Advice was given in regard to the making homes beautiful without wealth. Miss Greely dwelt upon the decoration of the schoolroom, the necessity of active interest in this work and the field open to the women's clubs in this direction. "The character of the man who has no appreciation for the beautiful," she said, "is as far from the perfect whole, as that of him who has no sense of the practical."

Mrs. Edwin Sprague of Rockland also gave a most able and interesting paper on "Modern Authorship."

The closing evening session was well attended and richly enjoyed by all present. Mrs. May Alden Ward, president of the New England Woman's Press Association, gave an able paper on "Voices of To-day." No condensed report could do justice to this scholarly and comprehensive paper, which reviewed the great minds of our time, as they have spoken to the world. Optimism was the prevailing thought of the paper. "Let us believe that life is worth living" was the closing and all pervading sentiment.

The poem of the evening was by Mrs. William P. Frye, wife of the famous Maine senator. Mrs. Frye is one of the bright women of the Federation and the mother of the able president, Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs. The poem was dedicated to the Founder of Women's clubs, and is published in another column.

The closing paper of the evening was by Miss Lillian Munger of Radcliffe college, Cambridge, and was on "The English Language as it is Writ and Spoke." Miss Munger spoke of the ambitious programs arranged by some clubs, and bespoke a more serious study of "the English Language," such as will enable the club woman to meet the ever-increasing demand upon her, to speak or write to better advantage. The "three-minute talk" was also recommended. "The useful man is he who speaks as well as acts." In closing Miss Munger said: "I believe the greatest good any club can bequeath to any community is to develop in its members the power of giving forth what is within, of saying what all feel but what all cannot express—this mastery of the thought and the word." At the closing session of the Federation, Friday morning, the nominating

committee reported the following nominations: President, Mrs. Frank H. Briggs, Auburn; vice-president, Mrs. Florence C. Porter, Caribou; treasurer, Mrs. B. F. Eaton, Skowhegan; corresponding secretary, Miss Nellie Marston, Monmouth; recording secretary, Mrs. Fred H. White, Lewiston. Standing committees: Educational, Miss Mary S. Snow, Bangor; Mrs. Annie G. Pepper, Waterville; Miss Bertha L. Soule, Bath. Bureau of Reciprocity, Mrs. Wm. H. Newell, Lewiston.

The reception given by the women of the Bangor clubs to the visiting ladies was one of the pleasant social features of the Federation, and one of the most enjoyable receptions in the life of the Federation.

The most important resolution adopted was as follows:

The committee on resolutions cannot better express the stand which the Maine Federation of Clubs wishes to take upon the vital questions of the day, than in the words which have already been quoted before this body. "The Women's Club may become the most potent outside educational force that America has yet seen. If their great opportunity is seized, that of being the sustaining and guiding power in correlating all the educational forces of the community, in developing and sustaining a spirit of investigation and a spirit of loyalty to the schools, in demanding the overthrow of all influences that counteract the work of the schools, their organization will lend a glory and honor to the closing of this great century. The strength of the Women's Clubs is to be measured largely by the strength of the individual members. Large bodies are not necessarily powerful. If dangers confront our civilization they must not be met by ridicule, scorn or vituperation, but by that warm-hearted spirit of brotherhood that sees a brother in every man, a sister in every woman, God's love in every child." Therefore,

Resolved, That as the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, we co-operate heartily with the Educational Associations; we give our close and sympathetic attention to the school systems that are under our observation; we suggest that at least one meeting of the year be devoted to the thorough discussion of the condition and betterment of our schools, and in all ways identify our best strength with the advancement of public education.

Mrs. H. C. Beedy put in the following which was adopted: few thousands now remain in the possession of the state; and, whereas, from its millions of acres of rich timberland only a few thousands now remain in the possession of the state; and whereas, it is important that the natural resources of the State be preserved that the Pine Tree State may not be an empty name: therefore,

Resolved, That as the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, as far as possible, we pledge ourselves to take up the study of forest conditions and resources and to further the highest interests of our State in these respects.

#### NOTES.

The re-election of Mrs. Briggs to the Maine presidency met with the cordial approval of every club woman. Mrs. Briggs has the support of the clubs in no limited measure.

The Maine Federation of Women's Clubs is well officered. The re-election of Miss Mary S. Snow as chairman of the board of education was most gratifying.

The admission of the Wabanaki Club, composed of members of the Penobscot tribe of Indians, to the Federation was a noticeable feature. The president, Mrs. Martha Nicolar was present and spoke a few words to the Federation, first in her native tongue and then in English.

Mrs. E. H. Hall of Rochester, N. Y., but formerly of Bangor, was one of the most cordially received of the visitors. Mrs. Hall, who gave a brief address, has the admiration of the Bangor club women.

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The report of Mrs. Frank Clark, president of the Literary Union of Portland, in regard to the work of the Union in furnishing the school rooms of that city with pictures was most encouraging.

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The Bangor Board of Trade received a vote of thanks from the Federation for a contribution voluntarily extended to the Bangor ladies to defray the expenses of the entertaining of the Federation.

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Mrs. William P. Frye, Lewiston; Mrs. Jennings, Farmington; Mrs. T. G. Stickney, Bangor, and Mrs. F. B. Clark, Portland, were chosen delegates to the Denver convention next June.

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The delegates to the Nashville exposition chosen were Mrs. H. Hamlin, Bangor, Mrs. Moody, Portland and Mrs. G. C. Wing, Auburn.

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It was a great pleasure to the members of the Maine Federation to meet Mrs. May Alden Ward, and listen to her admirable paper. Mrs. Ward increased the large number of her admirers by this recent visit to Maine.

\* \* \* \*

The new magazine, *The Club Woman*, was welcomed by this body, and the list of subscribers was increased at the closing session. It is hoped every club woman in Maine will subscribe for this much-needed organ of the Women's Clubs.

#### NEBRASKA.

October 5, 6 and 7 saw the fourth annual convention of the Nebraska Federation in Beatrice, which was the largest meeting of club women ever held in that State. "So large," says the president, "that the women who attended will never ask the question, 'Of what benefit is federation?'" One especially delightful feature was a letter from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe to the club women of Nebraska. Instead of opening with a reception this Federation held a directors' meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 5. Wednesday morning, October 6, Mrs. Sara S. Deutsch, president of the Beatrice Woman's Club, made the address of welcome and Mrs. Margaret Sacket of Weeping Water responded. Mrs. Belle N. Stoutenborough, president of the Nebraska Federation, gave her annual address, which was exceedingly helpful and stimulating. Music and reports of officers and clubs closed the session. In the afternoon there were addresses by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president G. F. W. C.; Mrs. Ray McClintock, president Kansas Social Science Federation; and Mrs. Emma M. Van Vechten, president Iowa Federation. Music interspersed all the exercises, and there was a conference on recommended work as follows: (a) Art—Mrs. Lillian R. Harford, Omaha. (b) Village Improvement—Mrs. W. G. L. Taylor, Lincoln, and Mrs. M. D. Carey, Seward. (c) Fostering Public Libraries—Mrs. Kate M. True, Tecumseh.

People who worry about club women neglecting their homes, will find balm in the fact that Wednesday evening, Oct. 6, the program was preceded by a "mother's prayer-meeting." Besides the music there were papers along the line of parental work, as follows:—"Report of National Congress of Mothers," Mrs. Maria Cowen, York; "Mother and Kindergarten," Mrs. Frank Heller, Omaha; "Mothers and Schools," Mrs. A. W. Field, Lincoln; "Responsibilities of Mothers," Mrs. Louisa L. Rickets, Lincoln, and a general discussion.

Thursday morning, October 7, the chief features were a debate on the "Need of Mixed Clubs," between Mrs. Nettie K. Hollenbeck, of Fremont, and Mrs. Nora T. Pratt of Norfolk, affirmative; and Mrs. F. A. Welton of Auburn and Mrs. L. E. A. Smith of Wayne, negative; a paper "Woman's Work in Nebraska," Mrs. Z. T. Lindsey of Omaha, and a talk, "The Reciprocity Bureau," by Miss Phoebe Elliott of Lincoln. At the closing session, Thursday afternoon, much necessary business was disposed of and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. B. N. Stoutenborough; vice-president, Mrs. C. E. Cobb, York; secretary, Mrs. Draper Smith, Omaha; treasurer, Mrs. M. V. Nichols, Beatrice; auditor, Mrs. Ella Larsh, Nebraska City; librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

#### ILLINOIS.

The Illinois State Federation held the third annual meeting at Jacksonville, October 20, 21 and 22, by invitation of the following clubs of that city: Ladies Education Society, Sorosis, Wednesday Class, College Hill, The Fortnightly, The Monday Conversation Club, Household Science Club, South Side Reading Circle, Daughters of the American Revolution, Wednesday Musical Club, University Extension, Jacksonville Art Association. A reception to delegates and visitors was held Tuesday evening, Oct. 19, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Bullard of the Jacksonville Female Academy.

On Wednesday morning, October 20, the Federation convened at 9.30, and listened to the address of welcome by Mrs. Joseph Bancroft of the Ladies' Education Society, which was responded to by Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, president of the Illinois Federation. Reports of officers and clubs occupied the remainder of the session. The afternoon meeting was opened by a chorus by the public school children, directed by Mrs. Constance Smith, and there were addresses by Mrs. Frances Le Baron of the Elgin Woman's Club on "Educational Problems as seen through the Women's Clubs of Illinois"; by Mrs. Anna L. Parker of the Atlantis Club of Quincy on "Ideals in Education"; by Mrs. Mary Coddington Bourland of the Clionian Society of Pontiac on "Relation of Child Study to the Public Kindergarten"; and by Mrs. Gertrude B. Blackwelder of Morgan Park on "Education as a Moral Factor." Following came reports of various committees and at 4.30 a reception was given by the Jacksonville ladies to delegates and visitors. The chief feature of the evening session, which was held at the Illinois Institution for the Blind, was an address on "Thackeray" by Miss Mary A. Wadsworth of the Oak Park Nineteenth Century Club.

Thursday morning, October 21, was entirely given over to business affairs. Thursday afternoon there were three fine addresses: one by Mrs. J. C. Barlow of the Streator Women's Council on "Associated Charities"; one by Mrs. James W. Patton of the Springfield Woman's Club on "Needs of Dependent Children"; and one by Mrs. Clara P. Bourland of the Peoria Woman's Club on "Influence of Clubs on Civic Life." The same evening Mrs. John Vance Cheney of Chicago gave her analytical and illustrated lecture on Beethoven's second symphony, D major, assisted by Mr. J. H. Davis and Mrs. E. F. Bullard of Jacksonville.

Friday morning, October 22, was given over to routine business and the election of officers, while the afternoon was devoted to a general discussion of plans for club work and study. There were ten-minute addresses from Mrs. Edward C. Lambert of Jacksonville on "Literary Clubs and their Methods of Study"; from Mrs. Lucy Fitch Perkins of Chicago on "Work of the Central Art Association"; from Miss Katharine Sharp (Professor in the State Library school, University of Illinois), on "Travelling Libraries in Country Districts"; and from Miss Ada C. Sweet, of the Illinois Audubon Society on "A Plea for



the Birds." The convention throughout was stimulative, earnest and helpful to all who attended.

#### VERMONT.

The beautiful town of Brandon looked its very best when it received, in the name of the Monday Club, the delegates and friends of the State Federation. Oct. 13th and 14th will be marked as red letter days by all who were permitted to enjoy the characteristic hospitality of the Brandon residents, who outdid even their own reputation for hospitality in welcoming and caring for the strangers within their gates. The evening of the 13th was made pleasant by a reception to the visitors and the town people by the Monday Club at the home of its president, Miss Julia A. C. Jackson. More than two hundred persons accepted the invitation of the Club, and a delightful evening was passed.

At the business meeting on the morning of the 14th, Miss Jackson welcomed the delegates and was responded to by the president of the State Federation, Mrs. May, who made a most eloquent address. The Monday Club of Rochester and the Progressive Club of Rutland were admitted to the Federation, making thirteen clubs who are working for a common purpose.

In the afternoon Mrs. Helen M. Ross of the St. Johnsbury Club read a convincing paper on "Woman's Work For State Institutions." The result of the paper was the appointment of a committee to work towards the placing of women on the Vermont State Boards. Mrs. E. J. Ormsbee of Brandon, read an interesting paper on Samoa, and incidentally, which was the most interesting, on the meeting of herself and her husband with Robert Louis Stevenson and his family, with whom they enjoyed a pleasant friendship during their stay in the islands.

In the evening Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr read a group of her poems, and Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer delivered a lecture on "The relation of education to the problems of practical philanthropy." This address was in a direct line of the work of the Federation, which interests itself chiefly with the questions of education and of helpful philanthropy, in its fullest and broadest sense. It is evident that the Vermont Federation was famous for earnest, practical work, and that it is carrying out its intention. The new president is Mrs. Sarah Temple of the Brattleboro Woman's Club, and the new secretary Mrs. Constance Blodgett of the Lyndonville Club. The next meeting of the Federation will probably be in Brattleboro.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The New Hampshire Federation met with the Somersworth Woman's Club, October 27, 28 and 29, too late for an extended report in this number. A reception was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 27th. Mrs. Susan H. Knapp of Somersworth made the address of welcome Thursday morning and Mrs. Helen M. Murkland of Durham responded. Reports of various officers and amendments to the constitution occupied the greater part of the morning session and Mrs. W. E. Woodman of West Lebanon read a paper on "What Forests and Shady Roads Mean to New Hampshire." In the afternoon the following papers were read: "Study in New Hampshire State Charities for Children," Mrs. Melusina H. Varick, Manchester; "Child Study in the Club," Miss Emma Fairbanks, Nashua; "The Ethical Value of Art in the Public Schools," Miss N. F. Peirce, Portsmouth. Music opened the evening session of the 28th, and Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair (wife of Senator Blair) delivered the president's annual address, followed by Prof. Gowing, State Superintendent of Public Instruction on "How can the Federation Benefit our State Schools?" The morning of Friday, the 29th, was given up to closing business and the election of officers.

#### COLORADO.

"The clock of time has pealed the woman's hour," was the quotation that headed the program of the Colorado State Federation which met at Pueblo, October 27, 28 and 29. And surely, after reading these reports of State Federation work all over our fair country, one realizes the truth of the quotation as never before. The convocation opened Wednesday afternoon, October 27, with meetings of the directors and credential committees. In the evening a reception and musicale at the Country Club proved a delightful feature: Mrs. C. C. Stein of the Norton Art Club gave the address of welcome Thursday morning, October 28, which was responded to by the President of the Federation, Mrs. M. D. Thatcher. Reports of officers, committees and clubs filled the rest of the morning. After a luncheon in the church parlors provided by the Pueblo federated clubs, the afternoon program was as follows:

Music by the Athene Musical Club of Denver; report of chairman of educational committee, Mrs. S. S. Platt, president Woman's Club, Denver; paper, "Education, Old Methods and New," Mrs. Henry Wright of the North Side Woman's Club, Denver; discussion, "Child Study," "Music and Art in the Public Schools," "Manners and Morals," "Kindergarten versus High School," "Modern Fads in Public Schools." The evening was devoted to patriotism, the session being opened by music by the Tuesday Musical Club of Denver; paper, "Patriotism, Past and Present," Mrs. J. A. Gravett of the Grand Mesa Woman's Club, Grand Junction; discussion, Unrecorded Patriots, Work of Patriotic Societies, Problems of the Commonwealth, Patriotism as Taught in the Public Schools. Friday morning the session opened with a paper, "Magazine Literature," Mrs. E. C. Stevens, Tourist Club of Trinidad; discussion, Fiction, Current Topics, Travels, Science, History, Music, Art, the Drama. In the afternoon there was a symposium, "The Progress of Woman," Pagan Women, Hebrew Women—a comparison, the Roman Matron of the Golden Age, Women of Greek Mythology and the Nibelungen Lied, compared; Idealization of Woman in Poetry and Art, Women as Sovereigns Before and Since the Dawn of Christianity, the Reign of Elizabeth—(1) Revival of Literature, (2) Shakespeare's Women, Women of the French Salons, Women as Philanthropists, Organized Work at Home and Abroad, the American Woman of the Revolutionary Period and of the Present, Progress in the Sciences, Professions and business.

The election of delegates to G. F. W. C. followed, with other business, and the adjournment to October, 1898. Mrs. Mahlon D. Thatcher of Pueblo is president of the Colorado Federation, and Mrs. C. C. Richardson, 609 Santa Fe avenue, Pueblo, is the corresponding secretary.

#### GEORGIA.

The Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in November, 1896. It numbers 25 clubs and about eight hundred members. Its distinct lines of work are Education, Library Extension and Free Libraries, Reform and Club Reciprocity. It is working for co-education in the State University in Athens, and will make a determined effort for it before the Georgia Legislature this fall. It has also bills before the youthful criminals, and improvements in educational facilities in the rural districts. The Georgia Federation holds its first annual session in Rome, Ga., Nov. 2, 3, 4, 1897. Tuesday, Nov. 2d, A. M., the Rome Woman's Club will tender the delegates a drive over the city, visiting the Rome Hospital and Free Kindergarten, institutions which are under the management of the Rome Woman's Club. The afternoon sessions will be devoted to ten-minute addresses by prominent Georgia club women, and

will include an address by the State chairman of correspondence of the G. F. W. C., Miss Rosa L. Woodbury. The evening of Nov. 2d will be occupied by a reception to delegates and club members given by Mrs. J. Lindsay Johnson, president of the Rome Woman's Club and vice-president of the Georgia Federation, at her home on Fourth avenue.

Wednesday morning, Nov. 3d, will be occupied with reports of officers and chairmen of committees.

The morning session of Nov. 4th will be occupied with election of officers, delegates to the next biennial of G. F. W. C. and general business.

At one evening session Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the G. F. W. C., will speak on "Co-ordination" and Miss Crozier of Tennessee on "Co-operation."

#### WISCONSIN.

The eyes of every Wisconsin clubwoman are just now turned to Oshkosh, where the club sisters of that city are busily at work upon the arrangements for what really will be the first annual convention of the Wisconsin State Federation of Women's Clubs, the meeting which was held in Milwaukee a year ago having been solely for the purpose of organization. The dates for the Oshkosh meeting have been set for Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 10 and 11, and there is every prospect for a lively convention, since each of the seventy odd clubs in the Federation will be represented by two delegates while many clubs in the neighborhood of Oshkosh will attend en masse. Milwaukee will be well represented, having nine clubs in the federation, and the other cities will make a good showing. The headquarters of the convention will be at the Athearn Hotel, but the meetings will be conducted at the Presbyterian church. The details of the two days' program, which is in the hands of a committee of which Mrs. W. K. Galloway of Eau Claire is chairman, are mapped out along lines that will be of practical help and stimulus to the visiting club women. Besides the usual reports from the state officers and committees, each vice-president will make a brief but comprehensive report of the progress of clubwork in her own congressional district, while delegates from clubs desirous of bringing their individual work before the convention will be given time to do so.

Among the speakers announced are Mrs. Charles Henrotin, president of the General Federation, Mrs. Charles Kendall Adams of Madison, who will speak upon "Waste in Our Kitchens." The opening address will be given by Mrs. John Hicks of Oshkosh, and Mrs. Charles Morris, the president of the Wisconsin Federation, will respond. Mrs. H. R. Vedder of Milwaukee, vice-president, will speak, and the Monday Musical club of Milwaukee will assist in the program.

The Wisconsin Federation has already come to be recognized as a power for good, though it is only a year old. This has been shown by the promptness with which the State Board of Control acted upon certain suggestions made by the educational committee of the Federation, and by the fact that Mrs. Morris, the State president, was appointed by Gov. Scofield as a member of the State Library commission. Already other States are looking toward Wisconsin for incentive along certain lines of work, and when the next biennial meeting is held in Denver, in June, 1898, Badger clubwomen will make a good showing.

The State Federation of Women's Clubs of New Jersey has announced its intention of putting before the Legislature of that State a practical plan whereby the Palisades of the Hudson River bank can be rescued from further defacement and rendered accessible to tourists and pleasure-seekers.

#### MICHIGAN.

NOVEMBER 9, 10 and 11 are the dates assigned for the annual meeting of the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs, to be held in Saginaw, W. S. The following outline is furnished:

Tuesday evening, November 9—Address of welcome; response and address by the President, Mrs. Emma A. Fox; address, "The Educational Work of Women's Clubs," Eliza R. Sunderland, Ph. D., Ann Arbor; address, "A Woman's Name," Anita Newcomb McGee, M. D., Washington.

Wednesday morning—Roll call; reports, etc. Wednesday afternoon—Paper, "Michigan—Romance and Heroism in its History," Mrs. Sarah W. George, Ypsilanti; paper, "Our Educational System," Mrs. J. F. Pease, Big Rapids; paper, "The Relation of Women to Our State Charitable Institutions," Mrs. J. E. St. John, Lansing. Wednesday evening—Social.

Thursday morning—General business and election of officers. Thursday afternoon—Paper, "The Relation of the Club to the City," Mrs. Florence M. Dunning, Battle Creek; paper, "How Shall a Busy Housekeeper Find Time for the Club?" Mrs. Jessie B. McKinney, Sault Ste. Marie; paper, "How Shall a Busy Club Woman Find Time for her Housekeeping?" Mrs. Ida F. W. Delano, Muskegon. Thursday evening—Address, "Hospitality," Denny Grace Dowling, M. D., Saginaw; illustrated lecture, "Art for Women's Clubs," Miss Anna Caulfield, Grand Rapids.

#### NEW YORK.

Mrs. W. A. Montgomery, president of the New York State Federation, will be unable to preside at the coming annual meeting in Syracuse, November 10, 11 and 12. Mrs. Montgomery has been prostrated for many weeks through the summer with a serious illness, and the autumn finds her strength still so depleted that all public work must be given up. In this enforced failure of Mrs. Montgomery to hold the gavel Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, the vice-president, will take the chair. Mrs. Helmuth's long experience as a presiding officer in Sorosis insures the able conduct of the proceedings.

The business meetings will be held at the hall of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, and the open meetings at the Central Baptist Church. The three morning sessions will be devoted to business, the work of the first morning including roll-call, address of welcome, response of the president, reports of officers and standing committees, and appointment of special committees to serve during the congress. On the second morning the consideration of the revision of the constitution, article by article, will be taken up, and the third session will be devoted to the election of officers and the transaction of such business as may be unfinished. Admission to these morning sessions will be only to accredited delegates.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the convening day, there will be a reception to delegates and their friends, which it is aimed to rob of all formality, and make a simple afternoon tea where sister club women will meet cordially and informally. The room containing the club exhibit will be open for the first time, and will contribute to the club spirit of the occasion.

A feature of this Federation meeting will be that of section reports, whereby each club reports before a section of similar clubs, with opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas. These section reports have one entire afternoon given to them, and are the responses to the report blanks which have been sent to each federated club. This has proved an excellent method of getting classified reports.

The annual meeting of the New Jersey Federation was held at Camden Oct. 28th and 29th.



## CLUB STUDY.

CONDUCTED BY MAY ALDEN WARD.

## THE STUDY OF FICTION.

IT is not so very long since novel reading was regarded as a demoralizing occupation. Many a harmless book has been confiscated by parent or guardian on the sole ground that it was a novel and therefore necessarily harmful.

While the reading of novels is no longer considered sinful, it is still looked upon by very practical people as a frivolous waste of time. Some of us cannot yet sit down to a novel without a twinge of conscience and a fear that we might be doing something more useful.

Those who love a good novel should be grateful to Richard G. Moulton, professor of English literature in the University of Chicago, for his plea in behalf of the study of fiction. Mr. Moulton declares at the outset that the person whose time is limited, should leave the literature of facts to people with more leisure, and make the best of his time by going straight to the world's great fiction.

He asserts that fiction is truer than fact. There is a difference between fact and truth. Fact is the raw material, truth is the finished product. There is more truth in one of George Eliot's masterpieces than in the biography of John Smith—more truth, because more of life.

He insists that a trained taste is needed in fiction as much as a trained ear in music. The way to obtain this cultivated taste is to read and re-read the great novels with effort and study.

In his little book called "Four Years of Novel Reading" Mr. Moulton calls attention to an interesting experiment in club study. The experiment was made in a small mining village in the north of England.

In 1890 a course of University Extension lectures was given in the village of Backworth, and the lecturer dwelt upon the importance of fiction as a wholesome and educational influence. Great interest was aroused, and inquiries made. It was soon discovered that although Backworth read fiction it was not fiction of the best class, and that there was little knowledge of the great classics of fiction. It was suggested that a society be formed for the purpose of studying these classics. Such a society was organized under the name of the "Backworth Classical Novel-Reading Union." Its principle was stated in the circular sent out as follows:

"Principle. Literature is the science of life and the great classical novels are among the best text-books of life. To study these is the true antidote to trashy and poisonous fiction."

The purpose of the Union was to encourage a course of systematic novel-reading. It was at first proposed to read a novel a month, but it was found best to extend the time to two months. All members of the union were required to read at the same time the novel selected. A list of six novelists was drawn up—Dickens, Thackeray, Scott, Kingsley, Lytton and George Eliot. The secretary was instructed to write to some competent literary authorities for suggestions or "points to be noted" in the works of these authors. Meetings were held once a month where essays were read by the members and the book in hand discussed. Later the list of authors was extended, taking in Victor Hugo, Charles Reade, George Meredith, Mrs. Gaskell, Charlotte Bronte, and others.

In three weeks the membership stood at forty-six. In six months it had increased to eighty-seven. Two or three extracts from the report of the work done will show something of the

method of study. The first book taken up was "Martin Chuzzlewit," and the following is the outline of study:

"Martin Chuzzlewit," by Charles Dickens.

Points to be noted (suggested by literary authority):

1. Four different types of selfishness—Old Martin, Young Martin, Antony and Pecksniff.

2. Four different types of unselfishness—Mary, Mark Tapley, Old Chuffey and Tom Pinch.

Debate—That the two swindles in the story (Scadder's Land Office and the English insurance company) are inconceivable.

Essays.

1. Is Mark Tapley's character overdrawn?

2. Changes in the characters of the book from selfishness to unselfishness.

Difficulty raised—How could Tom Pinch go so long undecieved in Pecksniff?

Another of the novels studied by this unique club was "Jane Eyre," and it will be seen that the study outline for that work was equally suggestive.

"Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Bronte.

Points to be noted:

1. The book is neither artistic nor realistic, yet it possesses an engrossing interest. On what does that interest depend?

2. The characters:

Jane Eyre, a woman of little human sympathy, upright by rule rather than from any impulsive love of right. Note the vulgarity of her distrust of Rochester during her engagement.

Rochester, a woman's false type of manliness. He has a certain nobility, though his roughness and coarseness detract from the strength of his character.

St. John Rivers, a selfish prig; his uprightness based purely on hope of future reward.

Debate—Can Rochester's conduct to Jane Eyre be justified?

Essay—The character of the author as revealed in the book.

In four years the club has studied at least twenty-five novels in a thorough and systematic manner. Once a month essays are read by members on some topic suggested in the book in hand. Some of these essays show not only careful study, but original thought. Under the title "The Ideal of Ascetism" there is an analysis of Charles Reade's "Cloister and the Hearth." There is another paper on the development of character in "Romola." One of the brightest of the papers deals with Clara Middleton, the heroine of George Meredith's masterpiece, "The Egoist." It is not only a study of the charming Clara, but of her whole sex, as seen by Meredith. The writer draws a clever comparison between the women of Meredith and those of Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot and Charlotte Bronte. The results accomplished by this Classical Novel Reading Union in the remote little village of Backworth furnish valuable hints, which may be of use to other clubs.

Questions concerning club study, methods, authorities, etc., will be answered in this department. Communications should be addressed to Mrs. May Alden Ward, 62 Kirkland street, Cambridge, Mass.

The Club Woman is desirous of having a copy of the club-register or year-book and calendar of every club in the United States and Canada. Will secretaries kindly send copies?

Will every president who receives this copy of the Club Woman bring it to the notice of her club at the next meeting?

## AN OPEN PARLIAMENT.

CONDUCTED BY MRS. ETTA H. OSGOOD.

The house will please be in order. Are there any questions? Members need not observe the formalities.

Shall the president of a club be addressed as "Mrs." President while in the chair, or as "Madam President?" How, if she is an unmarried woman?

The late James G. Blaine always maintained that any person "in the chair" should be addressed as Mr. Chairman, on the ground that there is no sex in office. Whether married or unmarried, Mrs. would be equally appropriate. In some countries every woman is styled Mrs. when she arrives at the years of discretion; marrying is not considered the one test of attaining this period. Madam, likewise, may be applied to both the married woman and the glorified spinster, as well as the old-fashioned old maid and the sweet young maid. Mrs. Chairman is preferred to Madam Chairman. Although Madam Chairman is not incorrect, it savors a little too much of the affectation of the titles of men's "Sirs" and "Eminent Sirs," of which it is the feminine, to commend itself to the great body of club women.

If a by-law distinctly provides that all business of the club shall be transacted by the advisory board, shall the president allow discussions and criticisms of their actions in open meeting of the club? Have members, who have adopted such a by-law, any right to complain of its workings?

Most certainly not, to both questions. Redress in the form of an amendment is in their hands. Criticism in open meeting is unpardonable; under such circumstances, the president should bring the gavel down sharply and call any member to order who was so lacking in club courtesy and good manners as to indulge in it. As there can be no discussion without a motion it is not just clear how discussion could arise unless a meeting was called to amend the by-law or impeach the board.

Has the chairman of a meeting any right to attempt to bias the judgment of her audience, by stating her own views when putting a question to vote?

"The presiding officer is the servant, not the master, she may guide, but must not drive." In order to express her views, a chairman must leave the chair; should she express her views in the chair, any member may call her to order. But, since the dignity of office cannot be put off by vacating the chair, a president should be very careful not to take part in discussions, even in this perfectly proper way, since her words have so much greater weight by virtue of her office. In fact, it is considered very bad form, but there are times when the stones would cry out. To know just when this time arrives, this constitutes a president indeed.

Enclosed find a motion made by Mrs. Smith, with changes made by Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Brown. I wish to know—shall Mrs. Jones offer hers as an amendment, and how shall the chairman take care of it?

Is Mrs. Brown's an amendment to an amendment, or a motion made on the original question, and how should that be dealt with?

Mrs. Smith: "I move that we study our text-book during the winter, and in the spring have some one come to give us either a drill or one or more lessons."

Mrs. Jones rises and wishes to change the words "in the spring" to "at some future time."

Mrs. Brown now wishes to omit the words, "during the winter."

Mrs. Jones should move to amend and the chair should put the amendment to vote after allowing due time for discussion; no discussion should be allowed on Mrs. Smith's motion until the amendment is voted on.

Mrs. Brown's motion is an amendment to the main question, that is, Mrs. Smith's motion, and would not be in order until the amendment offered by Mrs. Jones had been voted on. An amendment to an amendment may be made before the amendment is voted upon, but a second amendment to the main question is out of order. The chair would say, Mrs. Brown's amendment is not now in order. After the vote on Mrs. Jones' amendment, the chair should say to Mrs. Brown your amendment will now be in order, if Mrs. Brown does not claim her right to be heard.

Questions relating to parliamentary usage to be answered in this department may be addressed to Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, 48 Winter Street, Portland, Me.

## WHAT SOME CLUBS ARE DOING.

A RECENT psychological writer claims that "there are periods in the development of the mental faculties, when there is a paralysis of the expressive power and the brain is in a distinctly absorbent mood." The history of the "woman movement," as it has been aptly called, could be easily divided into receptive periods and expressive periods. Greece and Rome sent their sons to war and philosophers educated their daughters for companions. As the soldiers conquered and acquired more land, woman became an agent for the aggrandizement of man; she increased his children and serfs, and by her industries contributed to his wealth. This was woman's receptive period. She has now arrived at the expressive period; henceforth, she will be an aggressive power in the world.

It is not always easy to trace a river to its source or a thought to its inspiration; but the club movement and the public library movement seem to be a simultaneous rush for the same special goal. Knowledge like food must be in an assimilable form before it can be transmitted into power. The new thinking, sentient creature called the "club woman," realizing her lack of ideas and power to express them, makes a heavy draft on literature of all kinds, classic, scientific and poetic, and from this original research she weaves a beautiful fabric, the warp a groundwork of ancient thought, the woof a growing power of expression and philosophies evolved from practical work.

"They never omit from the scope of their explorations those priceless veins of gold from which human nature perpetually adorns itself for the mere comity of living." "The divinest images of the imagination may become the property of the most lowly." In this vista of acquirement no stumbling blocks could be tolerated and ignorance must be banished. Libraries accessible to the people perforce must follow, and now like twin sisters the clubs and public libraries walk hand in hand.

In the early days of State Federation, Ohio infused into its attendants the desire for and determination to have a public library in every town and hamlet in the State. Four ladies from Bucyrus (Mrs. I. B. Gormly, Mrs. James R. Hopley, Miss Grace Gormly and Dr. Georgia Merriman), went home from Springfield with a purpose in their hearts and plans in their heads; they multiplied themselves and canvassed the town; they



sent ramifications of influence into all classes of society. They easily enthused old army officers and their comrades, editors and their entire publishing plant; they won the press and the clergy to their cause; the lawyer and his client, the doctor and his patient, the superintendent and the master mechanic, the teacher and his pupils, the banker and his teller, the housewife and her maid were interviewed. They stirred the sleeping embers of past failures and threw fresh fuel on every blazing fire; they wrote to old citizens, who in the business marts of great cities had accumulated much of the golden dust without being submerged therein—whose hearts still gave more than throbs for old associations' sake; and indeed the work, like the Revolution without a Lafayette, might have ended in failure had not the name of Juilliard on a bank check given as a sinking fund for books, which is still the sheet anchor of their hopes for a permanent institution.

First, to offer the newly organized Board of Trustees a chance to earn money was "The Hopley Publishing Co.," who tendered the use of their entire plant for one day and "a woman's edition" netted the board over \$1300. A room was rented, \$500 expended for books, and the library became a factor of the city's life. The second year began without money and few books, but at the close, through the efforts of the city solicitor, now attorney-general of the State, we were placed on the tax list and now receive \$50 per month from our city fathers. We are not properly housed or equipped, but we are an integral part of the State and hope by endowment from individual munificence to be an institution come to stay. What has been done here may be done elsewhere.

DR. GEORGIA MERRIMAN.

PERHAPS BECAUSE the biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs meets in Denver, Colorado, in 1898, the eyes of club women throughout the country are turned toward that city with more than usual interest. Denver is a city of many clubs, the largest of which, "The Woman's Club of Denver," has a membership of more than seven hundred, which we confidently expect will be increased to one thousand during the coming year, if the ratio of previous years is maintained. Its motto is "In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity;" hence on this broad plane the workings of the club have been entirely harmonious. Its influence has extended into every nook and corner of the city. Without entering politics women have influenced legislation, without religious tendencies, they have exhibited that broad Christian charity which has commanded the respect of all sects; without cultivating the club methods of their brothers and husbands, they have found that "Rest is not quitting this busy career, rest is fitting one's self to one's sphere," and the greater rest and recreation come from helping others and in so doing helping themselves. The membership being unlimited, the club welcomes all who desire help or can extend help, the only requisite being respectability, though the same safeguards are used as in other organizations of its kind.

For greater usefulness the club is divided into seven departments, each of which pursues the study best adapted to it, and is responsible to the club for two meetings each year. Department meetings are held once a month, and the club allows one hundred dollars a year for each department to prosecute its work. A resume of the work of the past year may be of interest.

The Home Department studied kitchen gardening, each member of the class pledging herself to teach in the lower part of the city to those in need of such knowledge. Additional funds were needed, and "As You Like It" was played in open air in July by amateurs, the proceeds of which netted to the department five hundred dollars, which ensures extending the

work. A class in "domestic science" will be held this season for fitting mistresses as well as servant girls in the culinary art.

The department of education has endowed a scholarship in the university and is studying improved methods in education, as the department is composed largely of teachers.

The department of philanthropy has a penny provident fund for the purpose of encouraging the children of the city to save their pennies, thus laying a foundation for thrift in the coming generation. They have also furnished land, the use of which has been donated them; implements and seed to the deserving poor, that they may raise their own vegetables. The first year some 200 families were benefited, only one of which applied for charity during the winter.

The art and literature department has furnished the public schools with a "travelling picture gallery." The pictures possess real merit, either historical or artistic, and remain in one room for three weeks, when they are passed on, another set taking their place. Club extension has been another work of this department, by encouraging the formation of clubs in the outlying districts, and caring for them until they are able to "go alone." Many poor but earnest women have been brought to realize the possibilities in their nature through this work.

The department of science and philosophy has extended a helping hand to club women throughout the State by furnishing books of reference from the public library for their use, in towns where there are no libraries. This department supports a class in psychology.

The reform department, as its name implies, has been of great benefit to our city in municipal reform, insisting that the streets, alleys, and sidewalks be kept clean, furnishing cans for refuse and seats for the waiting public at the intersections of the electric railway.

The department of music gave a concert with one of the pastors of the city, to furnish shoes for the barefooted children. Some \$600 was realized.

These are but a few of the helps extended by the departments. Each year the club contributes toward the Christmas dinner for the poor, and some 75 or 100 members go and serve it. There are also parliamentary and business auxiliaries and classes in vocal culture and dramatic art. In fact, every day of the week there are meetings or classes for its members. The club also has a snug sum in its treasury and is eagerly looking forward to a clubhouse of its own.

I can only say in closing, to the club women of the country, Come and see for yourselves next June what the club women of Denver are doing.

MARY P. MOORE, Ch. Science and Philosophy.

THE HAVERHILL WOMEN'S LITERARY UNION of Haverhill, Mass., enters this season upon the sixth year of its existence, with a membership of four hundred and twenty-five, a very large number in proportion to the size of our city. It is not a union of individuals, but a federation of clubs, a fact which has had a large influence upon its methods of working. At the time it was formed, in 1892, it consisted of nine clubs; that it now numbers thirty-three attests its popularity and prosperity, as well as its freedom from exclusiveness.

The club movement in Haverhill, however, dates back to the winter of 1872-'73, when two women's clubs were organized, which have continued their meetings, season after season, during the long period of twenty-five years, with constantly growing interest and enthusiasm. The seven clubs which afterwards sprung into existence before the formation of the union, were modelled on the plan of the two earlier ones, each pursuing its own line of study. Among the topics taken up in those earlier years may be mentioned the history of art, the history of the

drama, political economy, or some country as Spain, Scotland, Germany, Italy. An occasional parlor lecture or social brought the members of these various clubs together in an informal way. But it came at length to be felt that a closer relation between them would be a mutual help and stimulus. In the strong attachment which has always existed, especially on the part of the older clubs, to their individual organizations, it was not strange that at first some reluctance was felt at being merged in any degree in a larger body. That reluctance has almost wholly worn away, as time has proved the efficiency of the present system.

Each club meets by itself once a week or a fortnight, pursuing its own course of study, quite independently of the union. That these frequent meetings of more than four hundred women represent much intellectual activity is evinced by the programs of study which each is required to submit at the beginning of the season for the approval of the board of managers of the union. These programs represent an even wider range of subjects than the earlier ones, those of art and of history still appearing very prominently. One club has given three seasons to the subject of sociology, in connection with which public lectures were given by President Tucker and Mr. Robert Woods of the Andover House, Boston.

Another club, which is composed almost wholly of public school teachers, presents for this season an elaborate outline of study on the subject of Egypt. Of late there has been manifest a growing interest in the history of our own country, and one of the oldest clubs gives its attention this season to the topic of New England.

Each club is represented by a manager on the general board of officers, which holds monthly meetings. The program of the union itself for each winter includes social meetings, home days, as they are called, for which individual clubs, in succession, provide the entertainment and a course of lectures, which it is the aim to make attractive and profitable, and to many of which the outside public are admitted.

On the list for the coming season is a series on social economics, given by Dr. John Graham Brooks and Mr. J. M. Robertson of London; lectures by Prof. John Van Dyke, Mrs. Mabel Loomis Todd, Mrs. Susan Marr Spalding and others.

It will be seen that the aims of the Women's Literary Union, as its name indicates, have been largely literary. In the midst of a very busy community and made up of women whose lives are full of activities in the household, the church, the schoolroom, the shop, the scope and opportunity for social and philanthropic work has not been large. Yet the union has made itself felt as a power in social and civic affairs. It sets before itself the hope, not yet brought to fulfillment, of establishing a hospital aid society, vacation schools, and of bringing about a more rational observance of the Fourth of July. It has already successfully started a movement for a historical society—a thing long desired and needed in this old historic town.

Simply for what it has already accomplished in the way of social enjoyment and kindly fellowship, as well as of intellectual and spiritual inspiration, the Haverhill Women's Literary Union feels that it has fully proved its own right to be.

HARRIET O. NELSON,

President Haverhill Literary Union.

THE MONDAY CLUB of Webster Groves, Missouri, was formed ten years ago this month, although it has but recently become a federated club. The studies for the season of '97 and '98 will cover Spanish history, science, education, social economics and current events. A beautiful calendar has been issued in the club colors, green and white, giving the program from November 1, when their season opens with a paper on

"The Geography of Spain," by Mrs. C. M. Skinner, to June 13, 1898, when it closes with two papers, "Fifty Years' Progress in Invention," by Mrs. F. C. Wood, and "Philip II. and Philip III.," by Mrs. George K. Andrews. There are fifty-four members, and fifty-two appear on the year's program to speak, or read papers. This appears to be a remarkably fine showing and indicates that it is thoroughly a working club.

The "Current Events days" of this club have received great praise, so admirably is the work carried on. The Reciprocity Bureau of the G. F. W. C. recently gave "honorable mention" to a paper on art from this club. Next year the club will make an exhaustive study of Italy, and the president, Mrs. Charles R. Siddy, will be glad to hear from other clubs pursuing that study.

BOSTON has a newly organized "Consumer's League." The plans of the organization are not yet fully made public, but among them will be a course of lectures, free to the public, on the general topic, "Beauty in the Home." These lectures will begin Tuesday evening, Nov. 1, and will follow on consecutive Tuesdays. The subjects for each lecture are: The Exterior of the House, Interior Decoration, How to Finish Walls and Floors, Casts and the Framing and Hanging of Pictures, Dress and Manners, Training of the Voice; and each speaker will be a specialist in his or her department. As the hall space is limited, admission will be limited to ticket holders, and the tickets will be given out with care. An arrangement has been made by which all federated clubs in or near Boston may have two tickets, on condition that they will see that these tickets are used. Miss O. M. E. Rowe, vice-president of the State Federation, is an officer of the Consumer's League, and to her the individual clubs owe this privilege. She has suggested that the clubs holding these tickets might provide interesting meetings by asking those members who have profited by the lectures to furnish an afternoon symposium, at the close of the course on "Beauty in the Home."

FROM THE beautiful village of Pittsford, Vermont, comes news of the "Friday Club." It is in the midst of a farming community, and the population is scattered. The first suggestion came from a summer resident who is familiar both with the place and people. The president, Mrs. George Nye Boardman, is a summer resident, who was for some years connected with the fine "Fortnightly" of Chicago, and has a fine appreciation of women's clubs and their work.

Only a few persons had been consulted, says Mrs. Boardman, when an invitation was given, three years ago this autumn, to all ladies who would be interested in the study of English history and literature to meet at such a time and place. About thirty women came together. A few brief papers were read relating to a plan of study which had been already prepared. A few words respecting the value of such a scheme of study were added by an educated gentleman, who had been called in for the sake of giving impulse to the movement. All were interested, but when the question was brought forward of organizing a society which should oblige its members to prepare papers or discuss questions, and which should demand study and preparation for such effort, very few were confident of their ability. Many of those present had left their school days far behind, and but one or two among us was a college graduate.

The tone of remark was by no means encouraging. Still a simple form of organization was adopted, with officers and a program committee. The results have been wonderful. Diligent study and careful preparation have made every meeting a success. The long distance which many members have to travel attests the value of the club to farmers' wives, many of whom are women of maturity. A "Students' Club," under the



charge of one of the pastors, engages the younger people. The oldest member is eighty years of age. She is one of the most animated and interested members. The club has a small but well selected village library. Many books recently purchased for it have been chosen in reference to the necessities of the literary clubs.

The annual meeting is not held at a uniform time. The summer is a busy season and the members of the club are not called together until the program for the coming year is so far arranged that it can be presented and considered. Everything relating to business is elastic and informal. This year's work—the study of Greece—began October 29. Excellent lecturers have been brought to town by this club. Last year the plan was adopted to give a portion of time at the close of each meeting to "Current Events." It is profitable to read what the country clubs are doing. Considering their opportunities, the work accomplished by many of them is more remarkable than that in the large cities. And nothing more surely demonstrates the thoroughness of the club movement.

THE HEPTOREAN CLUB of Somerville, Mass., has had a growth almost as phenomenal as Jack's famous beanstalk. The idea of the club was started by Mrs. Barbara N. Galpin (who was also one of the originators of the Daughters of Vermont) in an article in the Somerville Journal, headed "Why does not Somerville have a woman's club?" A few days afterward she was consulted at the Journal office by some of the leading ladies of that city, and asked to help form such a club, as one experienced in club work, having been an officer of the Woman's Press Association for several years. Mrs. Galpin put the first call for the new Somerville club in her paper and the proprietor, Mr. J. F. Hayden, offered the use of a room in his handsome new building for meetings, which was occupied until the club outgrew it. A large number of women responded to the call and the Heptorean Club was formed November 24, 1894. The membership was at first limited to two hundred, but it was found necessary to early extend it to three hundred, and now it is three hundred and fifty, with a long waiting list. The club meets second and fourth Saturdays, and the membership fee is five dollars a year, thus furnishing sufficient funds to carry on class work under the best teachers and engage the finest of lecturers that are to be had. The club is both literary and social, and aims to bring together women from different sections of the city for mutual benefit and pleasure; it is also useful in all cases where the concerted action of the Somerville women is needed. The "Heptorean" takes its name from the fact that there are seven hills in Somerville. It became incorporated and joined both State and General Federations in 1895.

The example so rapidly spreading among the women's clubs for establishing free scholarships for young women, was set by the Heptorean Club, which has now one protegee in Tufts College and another in Radcliffe. The club is to found and maintain a free bed in the Somerville Hospital, to be called the Heptorean bed, and when this is done, fully one-fourth of the club's income will be given to philanthropic work. The Heptorean is a "department club," and under the able leadership of Mrs. Anna D. West, who has been president from the start, it now ranks among the foremost clubs in the country.

The "Directory of Women's Clubs in Michigan," recently issued by the club organization committee of the M. S. F. W. C., of which Mrs. M. M. Rosenberg of Reed City is chairman, gives two hundred and fifteen clubs, of which eighty-four belong to the State Federation.

## HOW TO FORM A CLUB.

IT would seem to the average club-woman that directions for organizing a club in these days of federation and association are superfluous, but, on the contrary, there are women in many country towns, and even many sets of women in cities or suburban districts, who are still eager for information on the subject.

In any neighborhood where there is one woman who desires to form a club, and she has even one friend who is in sympathy with her, let her issue invitations to her personal friends or acquaintances to meet at her house or any other convenient place. It is not even necessary to state for what purpose the invitations have been sent out.

Sometimes an enthusiastic federated club-woman near the given locality may be found, who will assist in organizing, and meet with the new club until it is in fair working-order, thus aiding other women in self-development and self-control and preparing them for the higher development of the race.

It is best to begin an organization very simply, and for that reason a constitution should be as short as possible, leaving changes and additions to be put in the by-laws as occasion arises.

According to the rules sent out by the G. F. W. C. two years ago (and no better have ever been formulated), the constitution should include:

1. The name of the proposed club.
2. The object for which it is formed.
3. The number and duty of officers.
4. The time of holding the annual meeting.
5. How many shall constitute a quorum.
6. How the constitution may be amended.

By-laws will vary with the size and needs of the club, and the rules for amending the same should make it easier than to change the constitution. The most essential points to be covered by the by-laws are: The time and place of regular meetings; how the work of the club shall be presented; the manner of electing officers; the limit of membership (if desired to limit); the order of business of the regular and annual meetings; the authority on parliamentary law; how by-laws can be amended.

It is a very good idea for those interested to send beforehand to a few well-known clubs for copies of their constitution and by-laws; and from them can be formulated what will suit almost any locality.

A standing committee on membership has been very desirable, and the following formula is recommended:

"The name of a candidate must be presented to the committee in writing by the member proposing her, together with a statement of the qualifications that would make her a desirable member.

"The proceedings of the committee with reference to the admission of candidates shall be strictly confidential.

"The name of a candidate accepted by the committee must be presented at a regular meeting, to be balloted on at the next regular meeting."

In formation of new clubs it is advisable that a State chairman of the G. F. W. C. should (wherever practicable) be present at the first meeting in order to awaken enthusiasm, present the advantages of parliamentary usage in conducting meetings, and to give information about the aims and advantages of the General Federation.

All members of clubs everywhere should be encouraged to take the Federation organ, that they may receive the inspiration that comes from fellowship with the great body of noble workers represented in the Federation. For the same reason, each member should be urged to buy and wear a Federation pin.



### THE OUTER GARB.

**A**T Springer Brothers' well-known Boston store, the high authority on jackets by the way, are some charming models of jackets that will satisfy the most fastidious lady. One of those is shown in the illustration. It is of cadet blue smooth-faced cloth, tight-fitting, and closing exactly in the front with two lapels at the top. The whole jacket is trimmed with one row of wide flat braid, edged with the narrow braiding in a fine pattern. This goes clear round the jacket and is arranged in a becoming design in the back. Persian lamb is used as a binding on the edge of this jacket, which is lined throughout with fancy taffeta. This is certainly one of the richest jackets the fall season has yet brought forth.

Of course, there are jackets and jackets. But the young woman of correct tastes would rather have no new jacket at all than to have one that isn't just right in every particular. The beauty of Springer jackets is, that they are just right in every particular.

It should be remembered that the best service a house like Springer Brothers renders is not that of giving a certain set or stereotyped style to garments, gauged by what happens to be

the prevailing fashion, but to adapt every garment to individual requirements, to make every creation express the mode, but keep it subordinated to the personality of the possessor.

There should be said just a word about the lovely fur garments at this high-class house. The time has gone by when a woman can go into a store, and by merely paying over her money and getting herself wrapped in furs, come out properly and fashionably arrayed in these, the richest and showiest of all garments. If one wishes a fur garment *comme il faut*, one must have it correctly fitted and chosen with the assistance of experts. These garments come in a wide variety of styles and the sales people there are not only competent to give advice, but willing to take infinite pains with each individual customer.

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUB WOMEN.

THE preparation of a club program is far from being the simple matter of providing entertainment or instruction for members. Behind it lie all the problems connected with the popularization and diffusion of knowledge, which are now engaging the attention of our most prominent educators, and, therefore, it is necessary to study the principles which underlie this great movement, if the corresponding tendency in Women's Clubs is to be placed on a sound philosophical basis. Almost every modern form of organization, whether social settlements, churches, patriotic societies, Christian associations, etc., has its educational features; and no student of such development, as well as the more distinctly educational institutions like summer schools, university extension courses, reading circles, etc., can fail to realize that a people's university is growing out of the half articulate needs of the nation, and that in this world-wide scheme Women's Clubs have their part, and should adapt their growth to conform with it.

In this brief space details must be avoided, and indeed, conditions vary so greatly both in character and needs of clubs, their size, the possibilities and deficiencies of their locality, etc., that any attempt to define programs would defeat its own end. The first consideration should be a careful definition of the kinds of meetings which clubs wish to hold. In their early formation it is not too much to say that much confusion prevailed, and even still prevails, on this point, and the result has often been an unfortunate confusion of topics and interests, to the exclusion of either real profit or entertainment.

General meetings are necessary and popular. Their number during the winter varies from weekly to monthly, but the tendency is to lessen their frequency and consequently to increase their attractiveness. They are valuable to amuse, to promote

sociability and discussion, to entertain distinguished guests, to popularize movements, to call attention to subjects of general interest; but it should be distinctly understood that they are not the place to present subjects which need continuous investigation or thought. These, whether popular or special, should be eliminated from the programs of general meetings, where they are now receiving scanty and inadequate attention, and be divided into departments or committees.

Department meetings are among the most promising features of Women's Clubs. Upon their development depend the continuous mental life of their members, and the growth of a discriminating and enlightened spirit which will ultimately be felt throughout the club. Many clubs have arranged what might be called the group system. Under a few general sections (the fewer the better), any member of sub-sections can be added under an efficient head-chairman, who, with her colleagues, can most successfully form the general program committee.

This general consideration of club organization cannot be avoided in connection with any discussion of programs, because the departments provide for everything not suitable for general meetings, and quietly develop talent and investigation, of which the result can be given at the general meetings.

The difficulty, however, only begins with the formation of sections and sub-sections. The conscientious chairman is at once confronted by the member who is attracted by the reading of a paper, and the college woman who wants a post-graduate course; both claims must be considered. The popular courses where little or no study is required, will always be most largely attended. They can be profitably conducted on lines where practical experience and general information can be utilized, such as household science, current topics, modern literature, etc. The difficulty lies in the undue share of labor which devolves on the leader, with the usual result of volunteer work, that it is badly done or done at the expense of a too conscientious chairman.

Here may be seen the advantages of joining some of the many excellent popular courses of reading and study issued by university extension courses, reading circles, etc. The popular four years' course of the Chautauqua Library and Scientific Circle (C. L. S. C.), is admirably adapted for the general reader. In this way the chairman is saved much unnecessary toil, and the class benefits by the connection with a well organized scheme at very small expense, while due allowance is left for individual development. In States, whose parental care provides travelling libraries, such circles can have the advantage of excellent reference literature.

Smaller classes for more advanced study will take care of themselves, if encouraged to organize. They furnish delightful opportunities for congenial discussion and thought, and the chairman should at once put herself in touch with the leading educational institutions of her community, in order to get every possible stimulus from such a connection. An advisory instructor to help formulate a course, or prepare a bibliography, can always be procured from a college or university at a small fee, to which members are often glad to contribute. Out of such centres can grow university extension courses, and many valuable educational developments.

All members of the club should be cordially welcomed to section meetings, but such meetings should be distinguished from general meetings on the monthly postal, or whatever form of notice is sent to members.

A club should be an intellectual and social clearing house for its members. Women suffer from too much isolation, and a recognition of this defect leads them into organization. Find out what courses of public lectures are to be given in your city or town during the winter, prepare lists of those which pertain

to club interests, post them on the bulletin board and distribute them; provide, if possible, copies of the catalogues of public libraries, so that members may have at hand the literary resources of their city. Keep a table distinctly for the current reports, pamphlets, etc., which relate to surrounding interests or to topics under discussion, and see that the chairman keeps them up to date. Most people do not know half the resources of their own city, and it is a club's golden opportunity to point them out. Have a stereopticon in good working order so that any subject can be at once illustrated, whether a table of statistics or a member's latest journey into picturesque scenery. Spend money freely in giving information, but do not waste it in duplicating work which is being better done elsewhere; connect yourself with movements for popularizing and diffusing knowledge in your own community.

You may ask what has this to do with the winter's program? You will find it vastly simplified when you come to arrange it, and see what economy of money and strength is obtained by availing yourself of collateral interests. You may also ask what will be left for the program if every possible club activity is to be sorted into sections, if members are to be referred to outside educational advantages, if every good form of popular education is to be utilized. What will remain as the distinctive features of a Woman's Club?

Attention has already been called to the legitimate functions of general meetings and to the special advantages of departments. There will also be more time and strength left, by a wise conservation of energy, not only for the ordinary club comfort and pleasures, too often overlooked in their considerations, but also for the promotion of some departments of local interest, such as village improvement associations in small towns, or household science sections everywhere. But the best gain of all, through this co-operative policy, is a much-needed consciousness of the solidarity of the human race, a centralization within the club of the varied interests of the community, a development of local resources often ignored by members, and a connection with widespread national movements which will all ultimately enrich and enlighten both individuals and clubs, and provide endless material for programs.

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